

THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 1 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. May 1944

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874



The Old Elm

The Faneuil Hall Band Concert

Our Band, under the direction of Lt. Frank L. Warren, gave its annual Spring concert on Sunday afternoon, April 30, before the largest audience which has been present at any of these annual concerts. The program was well balanced, and each piece was most creditably performed.

Many of those present were of the opinion that the quality of this concert surpassed that of other years, which is high praise indeed.

The instrumentation of the Band of 1944 was: Twelve clarinets; nine cornets; four trombones; seven alto horns; three bass horns; six drums and one baritone

horn. The cornet, clarinet, and trombone sections provided one or more soloists for the concert.

It was a great privilege for us to have as a guest Mr. George Lawrence Stone, one of the nation's outstanding percussionists. Mr. Stone spoke briefly commending the boys on their music, and then he proceeded to demonstrate what could be done with a snare drum. Following this he did a stunt with one of our boys, showing in a humorous way what is expected of the drummer of today.

Howard B. Ellis, '99, who taught our band from 1912-1923 was present and was introduced. Mr. Ellis spoke informally of his interest in the band and then led the group in a spirited march. It gave the old-timers a thrill to see Mr. Ellis once again stand before the Farm School band, and he was accorded a warm reception.

Other guests present included personnel from the armed services' bands; musicians from civilian life, including music supervisors from suburban towns; and many former instructors and graduates of the school. Most of the audience was made up of the parents and friends of the boys.

It would be very difficult to comment on the performance of the individual numbers, except to say that each selection showed long and careful rehearsal. Karl King's "Omar Khayyam" Overture was admirably performed, and was probably the outstanding number on the program. There were three solos, and a duet, which were very well played and added much to the program. As encores the boys had a few popular songs which gave a lighter touch to the afternoon of music, and which were well received.

A feature of the concert was the first public performance of a waltz ballad, "In My Heart Grows a Rose", composed by Joseph M. Bourque. Mr. Bourque was

in the audience and was introduced following the playing of his song.

The program was under the direction of our bandmaster, Lt. Frank L. Warren, who did his customary fine job in bringing to his audience a well-rehearsed splendidly balanced program of band music.

The program follows:

PROGRAMME

MARCH—Alamo	<i>Fillmore</i>
OVERTURE—Omar Khayyam	<i>K. L. King</i>
CORNET SOLO—Prismatic Polka Chester C. McLeod	<i>Rollinson</i>
CLARINET SOLO—Marguerite Robert P. Donnelly	<i>Smith</i>
CORNET DUET—The Pals Robert B. Donovan Frank N. Babick	<i>Barnard</i>
TROMBONE SOLO—Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep Henry J. Porter	
MARCH—Golden Plume	<i>Selected</i>
SELECTION—Over There	<i>Arr. Lake</i>
WALTZ BALLAD—In My Heart Grows a Rose (First Public Performance) Joseph M. Bourque Henry J. Porter, Robert P. Donnelly, Soloists	
NOVELTY—Farm and Trades School Has a Band	
MARCH—The Premium Star Spangled Banner	

Roster of Band

Mr. Frank L. Warren, Conductor
Mr. Clifton E. Albee, Assistant

CLARINETS

Robert P. Donnelly
Theodore J. Mara
George H. Bruce
Bruce E. Haeger
Robert G. Stidstone
Richard E. Duquet
Darwin C. Baird
Robert B. Morrill
Richard G. Morrill
William Hosmer
Harold W. Kew, Jr.
Leslie L. Goddard

CORNETS

Chester C. McLeod
 Robert B. Donovan
 Frank N. Babick
 Laurence P. Cable, 2nd
 Franklyn Y. Mara
 Harold D. Lowery
 William D. Leonard
 John J. Goguen
 Frederick C. Boudreau

BARITONE

Donald J. DeWolf

TROMBONES

Henry J. Porter
 Walter J. Ross
 Paul F. Donovan
 George A. Robie

ALTOS

Stephen J. Zevitas
 Warren A. Reardon
 William H. Hartford
 Arthur C. Harris
 Robert G. Crease
 Maurice E. McAllister
 Thornton B. Lauriat

BASSES

Frank W. Ellis
 Berton E. Cadorath
 Robert M. Deraney

DRUMS

Louis A. Towne
 James A. Blair
 Robert W. Smith
 William H. Manson
 Paul W. Horton
 Robert A. Patterson

Farming at F. T. S.

For quite a while I worked on the Pilgrim, and was changed to the farm. I enjoyed the boat work very much, and I didn't like the change, but I soon found that the farm work was very profitable and interesting.

What makes farm work desirous to a

boy is the constant change of duties. Nearly every day there is different work to do. The care of the animals appeals strongly to every boy. It is an experience to watch an animal throughout its life, to care for it, and finally dress it off for the table. The preparation of the soil for planting, and the ever-present need for farm carpentry and machine work also are liked by nearly all boys. My chief regret is that I will graduate in June, and will not be able to learn about the harvesting of crops. I'd like to be here during haying season.

Our dairy herd is one of which we may well be proud. There are fifty head of pure-bred, registered Guernsey cows. All those who seek an opportunity to work in our dairy eventually have their request granted, and many of the boys have acquired much skill as dairymen. During wartime this training has interesting aspects because of the difficulty of getting full grain rations for the cattle, and the need of studying feed and feed formulae so that our herd and milk production may be held at high levels.

Much beef, pork and chicken is supplied our table by the farm, and this is a valuable part of our farm experience. The School purchases a large part of its meat, but that which the farm supplies is a valuable addition to our food supply.

A good farmer is a master mechanic, and this is well, for he has a lot of machinery to keep in good repair. The farm boys spend much time during the winter overhauling plows, harrows, cultivators, sprayers, mowing machines and other equipment. Because we keep things in good working order, it is seldom necessary to stop important work to make any major repairs on our valuable machinery.

I have been interested in noticing farm work and crops in the many regions

Please turn to page 6

Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by
THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL
 Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF EXCELLENT
 CHARACTER SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.
 TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

ROBERT P. DONNELLY - - - - - *Editor*
 FRANK N. BABICK - - - - - *Assoc. Editor*

Vol. 48 No. 1 May 1944

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The principle factors contributory to the success of our school are our Board, our alumni, the many friends of the School during its 130 years of service to boys, the enrolled boys, and its past and present staff.

All people are impressionable and tend strongly to react in accordance with the actions of the others in the group. Our faculty members include all employed adults at our school. They are men and women of character who live the Golden Rule and observe The Ten Commandments in a positive manner. Our staff is trained to lead boys in right living as well as in one or more practical, educational training departments.

Our boys are successful, happy and leading citizens now and in later life because our boys possess right qualities and because of the following leadership qualities shown by our staff.

1. They live as they would like their boys to live.
2. They are as loyal to others as they would like others to be to them.
3. They are as patient, friendly, cheerful, and fair as they would like others to be.
4. They are tolerant, unselfish, co-operative and hard-working, even as they wish their boys to be.
5. Their work is as well prepared and finished as they would like their boys to prepare and finish their work.
6. When instructing one or a group they see that there is undivided attention so that the understanding may be complete.
7. They ask and answer all questions courteously and at all times use proper, simple, understandable, good English.
8. Even the quality of voice is carefully modulated, is pleasing, firm and clear.
9. Obviously calm, self-possessed respectful attitude and speech are ever

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present.

10. Good-cheer, friendliness, praising, unsarcastic observations are important.

11. Whenever two or more are present the entire group is considered in every work and discussion.

12. Each period has its proper subject and the work and discussion is confined to the job of that period.

13. Each job, study, and recreational event is well planned and adequate time is allowed for it to be well done.

14. Attention attracting mannerisms and dress are avoided. Complete and proper dress and neat, clean appearance are essential.

15. Boasting and self-praise are avoided. One's personal qualities and skills are obvious.

Topics in Brief

A baseball diamond is being constructed on our athletic field. This is a job of big proportions for us, but already much progress has been made, and we are confident that it will be ready for use this summer. Many of the boys are much interested in its day to day progress.

The semi-diesel engine in the Pilgrim III has been replaced. The old one had become simply worn out, and repairs were no longer practical. Our new engine is a Chrysler, burns gasoline, and is much more powerful than the old one. The installation of this engine necessitated other changes, principally in the heating system of the boat. The work was performed by John Goodhue, '21, at his boat yard in Braintree.

Division B, of the eighth grade, provided an evening of entertainment on May 15. Skits, songs, and jokes made up an interesting program. This was

one of our regular weekly assemblies, held on Monday evenings.

Recreation for the boys has been centered chiefly around softball this spring, and this game has continued to be of undiminished popularity. We have completed a schedule of eighteen games among four teams, in which the interest remained intense throughout the nine week series. Countless other games have been played, and the diamond is busy during all recreation hours.

The boys in Dormitory C have built a portable bowling alley, which has given them much pleasure during the past few weeks. Some experimentation was necessary, but the finished product is something to be proud of.

Most of the boys are interested in flowers, and individual plots are assigned them, so that they may grow whichever kind of plants they most prefer. These gardens are located just east of the Front Lawn, and present a gorgeous picture during the summer months. The Grew Garden Prizes are awarded annually to those who achieve excellence in this hobby.

Our Band had the opportunity to play for National Maritime Week, at Central Wharf recently. After the concert the boys inspected one of the new Maritime training ships, and gained a first hand knowledge of how men in the merchant marine fare on board ship in these days. The trip was practical, impressive and very much enjoyed by our boys.

The first aid class, which has recently completed the standard Red Cross course, gave a fine demonstration of the values received in the pursuance of this work on May 22. Bandages, splints and the proper

care of accident victims was shown, as an "accident" was staged to provide injuries requiring immediate first aid attention. Motion pictures, loaned by the American Red Cross added greatly to the program.

The boys have been busy this spring screening and hauling gravel from our East beach, to be used on our avenues and walks. We agree with many of our friends that our gravelled areas help considerably in making our Island campus the beauty spot that it is.

Farming at F. T. S.

Continued from Page 3

of our country. One thing seems evident and that is the great increase in insects the country over. This is because of the weather conditions of the past winter, the lack of help and the inability of some farmers to keep insects and pests under control, even in normal times. On our farm we wage a constant and vigorous war against these crop destroyers, and we are quite, although not completely, successful. It is true also that no one is dependent upon weather conditions as is the farmer. For he may keep his soil in good producing condition by crop rotation, he may use the finest fertilizers, he may keep insects under control and do everything else necessary for good crops, but if the weather is not suitable all his efforts are in vain.

Here at Thompson's Island we have nearly 100 acres under cultivation giving the boys farm life that they will always find of great value and usefulness. I am grateful for the months I spent on these 100 acres of farm land, and I am confident that all of the other boys are equally appreciative.

Theodore J. Mara

More News of the Men in Service

DONALD H. LOWERY, '41, H. A. 2-c

writes from his base at Miami, Florida and gives a fine account of his activities there. He continues in his letter to recall to us some of the friendships he made here, and that he is disappointed that he has met no F. T. S. boys in his travels in the service.

WARREN A. DANNER, USCG, '40, was married April 15, to Phyllis Brooks of Baltimore, Md. Murdock C. Moore, '39, USMS was best man and Richard J. Nelson, '40, USNR, was head usher. The happy couple are roller skating champions of Rhode Island and hope that circumstances will allow them to compete in the national contests at Detroit in the near future.

GEORGE W. HARRIS, '40, is in a Marine outfit which has seen considerable action in the Pacific. He was in the invasion of the Marshalls, and had cause there to be thankful for some of his F. T. S. training. His comments on the Japs, especially dead ones, are picturesque, to say the least.

JAMES J. MACDONALD, PFC, '41, has graduated from pre-flight training and is now at a South Carolina base flying the PT17 planes. He has just begun flying these ships solo, and it is surely a big thrill to him. His squadron has a full morning of classes, and works in the air throughout the afternoon. Pilots in the army air corps are given a hard, difficult training but once those silver wings are won, the effort is very much worth while.

CAPTAIN CHARLES L. PARK, Jr., tells us in an interesting letter of his work as Supervisor of the Army Emergency Relief Section at an area in Eastern Massachusetts.

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

Sgt. ERNEST F. PETERSON, '36, writes from Iceland where he has been stationed for some time. In Iceland he speaks of the remarkable scenery, which he will always remember. He has been receiving the Beacon regularly and notes that the boys' articles are well written.

REGINALD A. BURLINGAME, '35, M-M 3-c, writes to thank all of us for the Christmas package sent from F. T. S. The package followed him throughout the Pacific area and it was five months before it reached him. A statement in his letter which is well worth repeating and remembering follows: "I am temporarily stationed at the Puget Sound Naval Base, waiting my next ship. It is good to get back to the States. One never realizes what a wonderful country he lives in until he has visited other lands."

WINTHROP DAVIDSON, PhMC2, '40, has written a fine letter relating to his service in the Navy. He has been in the Navy for two years, and for eleven months has been stationed at Norfolk, Virginia. He is in the Hospital branch of the Navy, which he regards as the most valuable of all, for his training and education can be used day after day in civilian life. He is prepared to handle any type of emergency, as he may have to do often when he goes on independent duty. It is not hard to note that this letter regards First Aid training as of paramount importance, and he urges everyone to take full advantage of this instruction whenever possible.

AXEL R. HALLBERG, '40, writes an interesting letter from his post somewhere in the South Pacific. He comments on the BEACON and its contents, and all in all he finds the paper extremely interesting for its "newsy paragraphs and timely editorials". Photography and music, his hobbies, are mentioned, as he recounted his experience at F. T. S. only a few short years ago.

WARREN M. LINNELL, '38, occasionally sends us word of his progress in the Navy, where he is almost ready to receive his wings as an ensign in Naval Aviation. Like all of the boys, he enjoys a letter from F. T. S., and like a great many of the others he is a prompt correspondent.

MURDOCK C. MOORE, '39, always adds some bit of humor to his correspondence, and his letters are gems of fun. No longer can he comment on the beauties of the South Pacific, and the joys of living in a tropical paradise, for his ship is now convoying in the North Atlantic. He is a radio officer in the Merchant Marine, and has been present in some of the severest naval fighting in the war.

WILLIAM H. THOMPSON, '29, who works at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard has sent our library a copy of the Hawaiian Year Book, and our boys will greatly enjoy this informative publication.

STANLEY C. MORTON, '41, S 1-c, writes of his work in the U. S. Navy. He hears from some of the instructors at the School, and appreciates very much this correspondence. His division has been renamed; and he is now finishing a course in "Storekeeper".

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

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Hyde Park, Mass.

HARRY E. BRENTON, '90, has retired from his very active participation in music. He is 72 years old, and able to reflect upon an active and outstanding career which extended from his boyhood at Thompson's Island up to the present time.

It would take many pages to list the remarkable achievements which this graduate has accomplished. He played cornet with the finest musical organizations in the world, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra. His early career was marked by engagements with circus bands, medicine shows, a Mississippi floating palace and finally at the show places of New York, including the Hippodrome, Winter Garden, Broadhurst and the Amsterdam Roof.

He was instrumental in promoting many musical organizations in and around Boston, from opera to the old-time brass band. He was also a member of the commission which sponsored the Boston Municipal Band, directed by Emil Mollenhauer, and which was a model of its kind. For some time he directed the Oliver Ames Band of North Easton. He also was a music publisher.

He has long been a champion of the underpaid musician, and has been a leader in the fight for reasonable financial returns for musicians. As president of the Boston Musicians Protective Association he did much in this cause, and shortly after, in 1922, he was elected Treasurer of the American Federation of Musicians, a position he held until his present retirement.

He has always been a staunch admirer of The Farm and Trades School,

and was the second director of the school band. We recall with great pleasure his presence at Faneuil Hall a few years ago, when he graciously gave time from a very busy schedule to act as guest conductor.

Mr. Brenton has retired, after a long and distinguished career. We wish for him many, many, happy years at his country home, where he is now able to give time to his hobby of horticulture, and to his other interests.

ARTHUR H. PICKARD, '34, T-Sgt. is a member of a band on duty in the Pacific area.

WARREN M. LINNELL, '38, AM1-c, writes from a Tennessee Naval Base telling us of his experiences as an aviation cadet. He is flying the "Yellow Perils" now, formerly a familiar sight over Thompson's Island, when the Squantum base was for primary training.

WILLIAM C. BURNS, '37, is stationed at a Kansas base, which is his eighth base in service, and he is attending another Navy school, the seventh. Since joining the Navy he has been at school steadily, but expects very soon to be transferred to a war area. At present he is studying the Liberator bomber and will be a member of a maintenance unit. He describes the Navy version of the Liberator, and compared with the Army plane, there are marked differences. The Navy calls its ship the PB4Y2.

CLYDE W. ALBEE, '33, sent us a postal strip of scenes of Hawaii, which has interested many of us. He is in the Seabees and writes good accounts of his experiences.

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Campus Scene—Gardner Hall

Gardner Hall was built in 1881 to give our School adequate facilities for a trades course which had outgrown existing facilities. It may surprise our younger readers to learn that the Sloyd Room was for a number of years located in this building. The paint shop once occupied a part of the present printing office, and thick coats of paint still mark the "testing area" used half a century ago.

Today the building is used for five major purposes. The entire second floor

has been made into a splendid basketball court, and is used for this sport during the winter months. The hall is also used for general recreation and for informal assemblies.

The printing office and laundry are located on the first floor of the building. The basement is used for two purposes. The paint shop occupies one area, and racks for storing lumber for use in our woodworking department are adjacent to the paint shop.

Printing Classes

During the school terms the boys in the seventh grade have printing classes. I am a member of the seventh grade class. I have learned how to set up articles for the BEACON, which is the School paper printed each month. The paper goes all over the world, because the graduates in the armed forces receive it, wherever they are. It is also received by the boys' parents, graduates and other friends of our school.

Robert M. Deraney

Five Years at F. T. S.

I arrived at The Farm and Trades School on the beautiful sunshiny morning of Wednesday, September 5, 1939. That was a day which will never leave my memory. Somehow it seemed that the minute I set foot on the Island that here was the place that would provide the groundwork for a life career, and I know that that assumption was exactly right. I did not expect my education to be handed me on a silver platter, nor did I expect that it would be overly difficult to achieve. However, everything looked so splendidly established on that first day that I felt that it would be great to be a student here, which belief I have discovered during these five years to be definitely true in every way.

So life at the Island commenced. Up at 6:15 and to bed at 9:00, this I thought was paradise. With a variety of worthwhile activities my life interests began to change. I could learn to play a musical instrument and play in the first boys' band in America, I could become a Scout, I could be on ball teams and take part in almost all sports. What more could a boy seek or ask for?

I became involved in many scraps and minor troubles during my first two years, so much so that in my second year my schoolwork became neglected. Happily I got over this stage, and made up in part for wasted time.

As time went on I received much help, advice and cooperation from all my instructors and schoolmates. I became a printing student, and printing is the work which I shall probably follow in later life. Thus I have found the work in which my life interest seems to lie here at The Farm and Trades School, and so can any student here, if he puts his heart and mind to it.

Trips throughout New England with the School Band, numerous parties, holiday celebrations and outstanding days in the F. T. S. program kept me in high spirits throughout my five years at this School.

Graduation in 1943 marked the end of the best four years of my life. Then I knew that I wanted to remain at the School, and I received permission to take the post-graduate course. All those who have taken the post-graduate year will agree with me that seems to be of more value to a pupil than the other years combined.

That which I have noticed in my days here which affects a number of boys is the lack of desire to keep school work caught up. It is better to be a little ahead, and this is not too difficult to do, if one wishes to. At any rate a student cannot correct his faults and make up a lot of work in a short space of time. One needs to "Learn the right things at the proper time". The sooner the truth of this statement is learned the sooner will great profit be reaped from it.

And so, with the coming of Graduation this year I concluded five years of

schooling on Thompson's Island. Surely I shall never regret having been through the Course at The Farm and Trades School, and certainly I shall keep forever in memory those happy days. As time goes on I hope I shall prove to have been worthy of the great opportunities extended me.

Robert P. Donnelly

To Our Service Men

A new Honor Roll has been printed and hung in the dining room in Bowditch House. The list contains 211 names, and our boys are represented in every branch of the armed services. The boys are fighting on every battlefield. Eight have made the supreme sacrifice.

The 211 men fighting regularly receive the BEACON, and most of them we believe, hear of the School and its activities through private correspondence with friends made at F. T. S. Many of the boys write regularly, for which we are grateful. We hope that as each of our fighting men read this little account, that they may realize that we enjoy writing them, and sending them the BEACON.

But to you boys we want to add one thought. Your letters to us are precious. Life on the home front is not altogether happy, with you away. The place you left vacant, temporarily, cannot be filled until you return. But your letters help a lot. Keep them coming!

Notes

Since her new Chrysler marine engine was installed early this Spring, our boat, the PILGRIM III. has been thoroughly cleaned, painted, and some minor repairs have been made. In appearance she is excelled by no craft in the harbor. There have been some necessary repairs made also upon our landing floats and wharf.

A group of the boys had the pleasure and opportunity to attend the circus, at the Boston Garden on May 26. The show this year was especially good, and the boys surely enjoyed this treat.

On May 29 the Sophomore class gave an assembly program which included a record of each member of the class during his schooldays here. This made an interesting and informal evening, and included, besides individual histories, the reading of the class will and prophecy. Music was furnished by class members.



George H. Bruce, Jr.

Fishing

The approach of warm weather is the signal for the reappearance of fishing equipment. The wharf is a popular place for our youthful Isaac Waltons, and many kinds of fish are hooked. Last season the boys caught enough mackerel for dinner for all. Upon occasion we have had fish fries on the beach. The taste of freshly caught mackerel, cooked out-of-doors is something to remember.

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Thomas Temple Pond

A Letter from Sgt. Roger L. Holton
Somewhere in England,
3 June, 1944

"Dear Mr. Meacham:

Received two more Beacons the other day and am now taking a break from my busy routine to, in a small way, express my gratitude. I always read each Beacon word for word. In the March issue there is the request for the reaction of the Readers to the Beacon. Don't change it! Am sure most graduates will agree with me; It's Okay as is! The front page of the March issue is especially good. The articles by the boys continually bring back fond memories. They have all been written many many times before in previous years, dating back perhaps to the first edition, but let them be written time and time again in future editions. They are our School and I for one will never tire living again, through them, the many pleasant occupations, frolics, sports and other pastimes which I enjoyed so much during my nearly five years there. If any changes are to be made, why not let the suggestions come solely from the boys themselves? They are the School and though 'us old timers' will always dream and dote on our countless memories of our beloved Alma Mater, I say we should take a 'back seat' now in favor of the newer sons of F. T. S. I am sure that, with our School's traditional heritage being imbued in them, we of the older generations will forever point with pride and say, 'That's my School!'

"Of course I'm especially interested in and especially proud of each successive accomplishment of the School Band. If you'll forgive a bit of reminiscing, I'll never forget the instance and I think it was in the spring of 1930, when we who were in the Band then, rehearsed some fancy drilling for about three hours one evening under the able direction of Mr.

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ALFRED C. MALM, Treasurer
One Federal Street, Boston 6

Warren. We hadn't done this particular drilling before but without further practice, less than two days later, we won first prize in the marching contest at Pawtucket, Rhode Island in competition with about fifty other bands. I'll always believe it was the spirit that 'did the trick' and I believe now that the spirit of F. T. S. is born not only from the exceptionally fine environment which includes the particularly high quality of the instructors, but so very much from the music of the Band itself. I can more easily recognize the blessings of music, which is basically more thorough in harmony structure, now that I am here in England. So much real good music is heard over the wireless (radio) here in England. I suppose it would be a broad statement to say that its benefits are reflected in the personalities of the greater percentage of the English people, but that is the fact as it seems to me. That brings me to mention a few words about England before closing. I have seen many parts of it and I'll say this is truly a beautiful land! The foliage of such a variety of plant life is, to say the least, abundant at this time of year. It seems that the most beautiful blossoms are everywhere. The people, who have learned to laugh in the face of deprivation, are grand! They know God has blessed them with a land that is worth fighting for. Many holidays are celebrated. Today the chimes of churches everywhere have been continually ringing out a glad tribute to close this year's Whit Week appropriately. As you probably know, Whit Week is a period that comes sixty days after Easter, or so I understand.

"Now I must close and please know that my kindest regards and best wishes are always with you and Mrs. Meacham and all my other friends there at F. T. S."

Sincerely,

Roger L. Holton, '30

Topics in Brief

Memorial Sunday services were conducted at our little cemetery at the southern end of the Island, on Sunday, May 28. Readings, recitations, an address by our Headmaster, hymns and special music by our brass quintet combined with a beautiful Sabbath May morning, made the exercises very impressive.

The Joyce Easter Meacham track meet was held, as is it annually, on May 30. The student body was divided into five groups, according to age and ability for the competition in this track meet, and the winner in each group was presented with an athletic medal. Individual prizes were also presented those who earned the three highest places in each race. The events included cross country, mile and half mile run, 440, 220 and 100 yard dashes, high and broad jump, and shotput.

The holiday was concluded by a picnic on the beach and a fine moving picture show in the late evening.

The swimming season began late in May, and undoubtedly will prove to be the most popular summer sport. Each year a program is planned in waterfront activities so that each student may advance in swimming technique. Standard Red Cross instructional methods are used, which are graded to include swimmers of every age. Besides swimming and diving, the very important course in Life Saving and Water Safety provides a valuable opportunity, which a large percentage of our boys grasp. Nearly all of those enrolled in the classes make improvement so that they pass the tests for the next highest swimming rank, and many make more than average improvement.

Recreational swimming will not be neglected, and daily throughout the summer "free swims" will be held.

An Editorial

By Headmaster William M. Meacham

Edward Rowe Snow is adding another book to his long list of writings and he has flattered us by requesting that we write a section about developments at our school during the past decade. However, our good friend and able historian says, "Make it 700 or 800 words." We thought that would be easy but as the improvements are tabulated it becomes apparent that the scope is so great and the space so little that it looks almost like a page of financial report. We crave to tell about our boys, our 200 men in the service, our staff, our friends who made the improvements possible, the reasons for making these changes.

To say that five main, brick buildings and a modern dairy have been constructed from funds provided by The Charles Hayden Foundation and many other friends of the School is far from an adequate statement of events during this first decade of our second century on Thompson's Island.

To say that a great, fine, flat spacious athletic field with ample facilities for football, baseball, track and field events has been developed during this period tells nothing of the hundreds of boys who have participated in this achievement over a period of years nor the reasons for this major job.

To say that the world's most famous band (apologies to the late Mr. Sousa) has won many tangible tokens for its accomplishments at the State and New England Music festivals, great praise at Faneuil Hall annually and that its assistant leader, also an alumnus of the School, has received national recognition for band composition is far from adequate comment.

To say that during these recent years our school and its leadership in the field of practical education has been recognized by educators in Poland, Iceland, New Zealand, Hawaii and China as attested by official correspondence from all and visitors from several of these areas is only a hint at the romance back of these contacts.

To say that our agricultural program has been developed to a point of leadership and recognition in this important phase of life and life training becomes little more than words and verges on the distasteful point of self-praise to our school and all who have been instrumental in this bit of progress. Our new dairy with its modern equipment, our outstanding Guernsey herd headed by a Langwater bull, our poultry hatchery, brooder, and laying house, our rotation of crops and sale of 600 bushels of potatoes when almost no other civilians had potatoes, all become parts of the record with inadequate space to describe.

First Aid, Life saving, swimming classes, Boy Scouts, extensive camping, tennis tournaments all add to the total of the important parts of boy life which have in these recent years been organized and put to good use here at The Farm and Trades School.

This article does not purport to be the section for Mr. Snow's book. These are only a few of the thoughts about the record. We shall confine ourselves to the record but we shall unashamedly write into the record these things and many more which have here been done. If there are some readers who doubt that so little a school can do so much for boys let them see our good works and especially let those doubting Thomases, if any there be, observe and talk with our alumni—every one a symbol and representative of his alma mater.

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

The following letter from ORLANDO M. MURPHY, '35, RCAF, was mailed from India on May 26 and received by us on June 24.

Dear Mr. Meacham and Faculty:

"I received your grand letter, the BEACON, and your Christmas parcel today. To say that I was surprised and happy is putting it mildly. I was overjoyed. The Christmas package was "super", everything came in handy, and it sure was fine to read the news about the school and the boys again. I've often wondered about my classmates and now that I have their addresses I hope to be in touch with them shortly.

"Well, now to relate something about myself as briefly as possible. I joined the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) in October 1941, as a potential pilot. During training everything went along smoothly and I received my wings on Dec. 18, 1942. Shortly afterwards I was posted overseas to England. While there I decided to be a fighter pilot and I did my first training on Spitfires. At that time I had wanted to do all my operational flying in England. But I was posted overseas again, this time to India. The country itself was a "big letdown" to my mind until I got used to it. Though when a fellow stops and thinks "there's a war on" he doesn't mind so much. However, I like my job, and I'm doing plenty of flying. We are really giving Tojo and Co. something to think about.

"Well, I'm getting along fine, in good health, and enjoying life as much as possible. I've received a promotion in the

past month and my rank is now Warrant Officer 2nd Class, which is one step from the top of the ladder as a "non-com."

"In closing I want to thank you all for your thoughtfulness and kindness. I appreciate it very much. I only hope that someday in the near future I can visit you and thank you all in person."

Sincerely,
Orlando M. Murphy

Congratulations to Sgt. LEWIS C. GOODWIN, '36, on his marriage to Miss Mary Eleanor Schavone, at Natick, Mass., on May 24.

CAPTAIN WALTER K. PRATT, '33, writes from somewhere in the United Kingdom telling us of his Service career to date. It was on June 10 that he received the Christmas package from F. T. S. and he lost no time in acknowledging its receipt.

Many copies of the BEACON were received in the same mail and he received a big surprise and was somewhat startled to read an article by Darwin C. Baird, '45. It was eleven years ago that Captain Pratt graduated from F. T. S. and Darwin was about at the toddling age. He adds that it was a decided treat to read the BEACON — "as near a letter from home as anything could possibly be."

Captain Pratt graduated from OCS at Fort Knox on July 25, 1942 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. In December, 1942, he was made First Lieutenant. In September, 1943, he achieved his present rank. During his army career he has seen most of our country and a large part of the British Isles.

He has married since joining the armed forces, and has one son, age seven months.

Please turn to Page 8, Column 2

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, President
Hyde Park, Mass.
HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer
Arlington, Mass.

RAYMOND THOMAS, '26, Vice-President
Thompson's Island

MERTON P. ELLIS, '97, Secretary
77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

William F. Reagan, '37

It is with deepest regret that we announce the death of Sergeant William F. Reagan, '37, who was killed in action in the defense of his country, on March 25, in a sky battle over France.

He was graduated from our School in 1937, and remained for post-graduate work. In 1939 he received his diploma from Brookline High School and then studied at the Bentley School of Accounting and Finance, in Boston.

In July, 1942, he enlisted in the Army Air Force, where he made an enviable record, and his advancement was rapid. He trained as an aerial gunner at Fort Myers, Florida and later served at the same base as an instructor. Upon making application for combat duty he was given additional training at five other fields, receiving promotions to the rank of staff sergeant. The November issue of the BEACON had a complete account of his training, written in his inimitable style.

In January, 1944, he went to England and took part in numerous raids over enemy territory. On March 25 his plane was shot down. His commanding officer, Brig. Gen. Samuel Anderson, wrote of him: "William was a splendid gunner, highly respected by the members of his crew and all those who knew him. His loss is deeply felt by his comrades. His devotion to duty and to our country was unswerving and merited the highest praise."

A memorial service was held at St. Paul's Church in Brookline, on Sunday May 21. A great number of his friends attended, including the Galahad Club.

William F. Reagan was an ambitious, serious, very intelligent lad. His earnestness and ability were always evident. An extremely humble, cheerful and unselfish spirit made for him a host of friends, and in his schooldays here these traits made him beloved by his schoolmates and teachers alike. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his sister, Mrs. Douglas Burton, and to Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Church with whom he made his home.

We at the School will miss him greatly. He was truly a typical F. T. S. graduate. His memory will be revered.

CLARENCE H. MCLENNA, '27, is Sales Supervisor for the Heald Machine Company of Worcester. His home address is 58 Tarrytown Road, Rochester, N. Y. He has one son, Edward Bailey, who is now approaching his fourth year.

PFC PERCY R. BERRY, '38, is stationed in the Hawaiian Islands and he likes his post very much. The climate is fine too, he says. He enclosed a picture of himself in uniform and adds in his letter that he enjoys the BEACON, and that "It is a pleasure to have it."

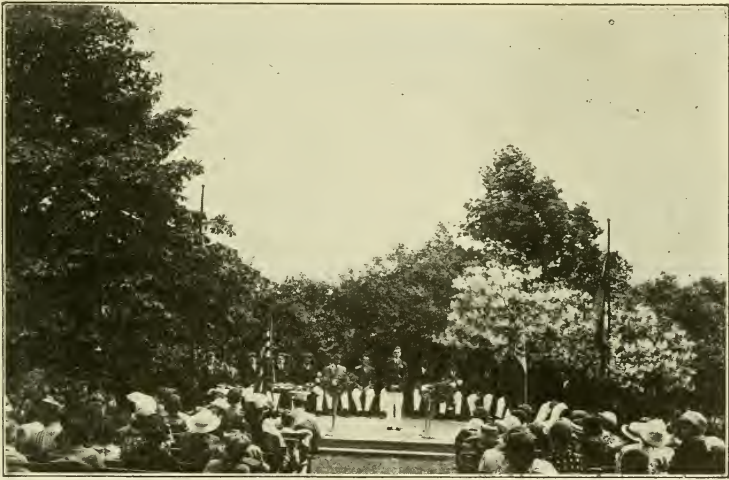
Continued from preceding page

He closes his letter with these words, which are certainly thought-provoking: "I have been fortunate enough to see quite a bit of England and Wales. I visited most of the larger cities. Some of them are not very pretty. My hat is off to these people. They really have had a time of it. Everytime I visit one of these cities I thank God for the help He is giving us in speeding up the running out of the sands in the German Hour-Glass."

THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 3 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. July 1944

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Graduation Exercises

Graduation

The Class of 1944 was graduated on June 7, in impressive ceremonies conducted on our South lawn. The program was opened by the playing of our National Anthem, after which our Band, conducted by Lieut. Frank L. Warren, played the "Omar Khayam" Overture.

The Reverend Garfield Morgan gave the address of the day, and his excellent and forceful talk will long remain in the

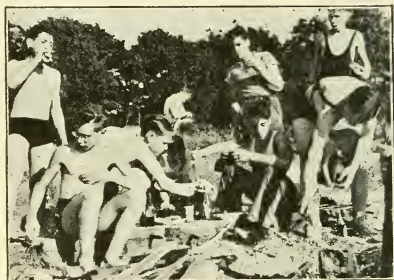
memories of our boys. Although his words were primarily for the members of the class, all of the several hundred in the audience felt it a privilege to hear this most able speaker.

Nine diplomas were awarded, two for completion of the regular course of study, two for the post-graduate work and five for Sloyd.

The complete program of the day, and the names of those receiving diplomas, follows:

PROGRAM

The Star Spangled Banner	Keyes
Overture—Omar Khayam	King
Invocation	
The Reverend Thomas MacAnespie	
Salutatory	
Walter J. Ross	
Trombone Solo—	
Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	
Henry J. Porter	



Supper on the Beach

Valedictory	
Theodore J. Mara	
March—Greeting to Bangor	R. B. Hall
Introduction of Speaker	
Treasurer Alfred C. Malm	
Address	
The Reverend Garfield Morgan	
Presentation of Diplomas	
Vice President Edward Wigglesworth	
Awarding of Prizes	
Headmaster William M. Meacham	
March—	
The Farm and Trades school Band	Albee

DIPLOMAS AWARDED

GRADUATION

Theodore John Mara
Walter John Ross

POST-GRADUATE

Robert Prescott Donnelly
Herbet Paul Stearns

SLOYD

Charles Alvin Bariteau
Chester Carol McLeod
Robert Wilmer Smith
Robert Galen Stidstone
Louis Allen Towne, Jr.

Beach Suppers

One of the pleasant experiences of a summer on our Island is the series of

beach suppers, or as many of the boys call them "cookouts". Usually these are held as part of a holiday celebration, although at times these picnics take place just because of the fun of having one.

Two long tables are set up on the beach just south of the wharf, and these serve as headquarters for the kitchen staff who has charge of the party. The boys build cooking fires along the beach, a few boys to each. As might be expected, the fun of making fireplaces is a big part of each "cookout".

The menu usually consists of frankfurts, or hamburgs, rolls and relish, bacon, fruit punch, cookies and ice cream. Often watermelon is part of the menu. Eating out-of-doors gives everyone a keen appetite and the quantity necessary is certainly somewhat more than is needed for a meal served in our dining room.

It is rather interesting to note the various ways in which the boys experiment with their cooking. Some improvise cooking gear from tin cans, others use Boy Scout equipment; while the more fastidious secure kitchen cooking dishes. No matter the cooking result, the test is in the eating, and no boy yet has failed to admit his cooking to be other than the best ever.



A Volleyball Match in Progress

Volleyball at F. T. S.

Many of the boys enjoy the game of volley-ball and we held a series of games during the summer season in this often played sport. Although interest is usually not enough to warrant championship league play, nor does the game compete seriously with baseball or softball in popularity, it has its faithful adherents, and many a pleasant hour has been spent on the volleyball court.

Those who champion the cause of volleyball make the claim that it is played more than any other game, and that it is the universal world sport. This is probably true, and if so, no doubt it is because old and young can play the game; that well-drilled teams are a joy to watch, but an informal game by hastily organized groups is just as much fun; that equipment for the game is relatively inexpensive, and it is a splendid body conditioner.

Skill in the game comes with a little practice, and there are few who cannot acquire enough ability to play quite successfully with only a few practice games

as experience. The ability to serve cleverly, to pass competently and to "spike" an opponent's return,—these come to the player who possesses natural ability and develops it. The weeks of arduous training necessary in some of our games, however, is happily lacking in volleyball.

Those who played volleyball consistently during our season in this sport were:

Frank N. Babick
Wiley L. Bishop
Robert M. Deraney
Donald E. Gray
Harold W. Kew
William H. Manson
Maurice E. McAllister
Chester C. McLeod
Richard G. Morrill
Robert A. Patterson
Henry J. Porter
Louis A. Towne
Stephen J. Zevitas

A good thing about the game is that it can be played informally with a few players, or the number on each team can be increased to fit any recreation project.

Thompson's Island Beacon

June 12, 1944

Published Monthly by
THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL
 Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF EXCELLENT
 CHARACTER SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.
 TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

FRANK N. BABICK - - - - - Editor

Vol. 48 No. 3 July 1944

Subscription Price - - - One Dollar Per Year

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The Reverend Garfield Morgan
 42 Bassett Street

Lynn, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Your message to our boys and assembled friends at graduation struck a deep note of life values in a manner seldom approached by other able men.

Too often I think my words to boys go unheeded and my efforts are looked upon with kindly tolerance and then I am thrilled and flattered by some boy or man years afterwards recalling some statement I made which apparently became a vital factor in his life.

I am sure that your forceful and vivid message fell on fertile soil. Your own example of success by determined effort, your expressed concept of service to mankind and your explanation of combining a mental picture of a goal with the material facts at hand and thus by persistence achieving that goal inspired many to go and do likewise. Nothing creates such real dividends as a well conceived plan in accord with God's Kingdom and the use of the vast resources available for every good plan. You also well illustrated the fact that persistence and hard work must accompany the dream in order to develop the plan to completion.

Your words will long be remembered and I am confident that many lives will be inspired to successful service by your plan of life.

Your efforts in our behalf are deeply appreciated and we extend our real gratitude and thanks to you for delivering the graduation address at our school.

Sincerely yours,

William M. Meacham
 Headmaster

Old Colony Trust Company
 Custodian of Investment Funds
 Contributions may be mailed to
 ALFRED C. MALM, Treasurer
 One Federal Street, Boston 6

Topics in Brief

Graduation Exercises for the Class of 1944 were held on June 7, in the afternoon, on our beautiful south lawn. The oration of the day was delivered by the Reverend Garfield Morgan, whose inspirational address will remain an integral part of the memories of the members of the Class. The Reverend Thomas MacAnespie delivered the Invocation, and Vice President of the Board of Managers, Mr. Edward Wigglesworth presented the diplomas. Our alumnus, Mr. Alfred C. Malm, who graduated in 1900, and who is our school treasurer, was present and introduced the speaker of the day.

The Baccalaureate Service for our graduating class was held in the Phillips Congregational Church on June 4. The sermon was given by the pastor, Rev. Thomas MacAnespie, and special music

was furnished by the Church choir, and by an instrumental quartet from our school band, which played several selections most acceptably.

The Sermon delivered on this occasion was of special interest and value to our boys, and all of us appreciate the advice and wisdom which it contained.

The members of the graduating class were the guests of Headmaster and Mrs. Meacham for a class supper on June 2. This is a custom of many years standing, and has grown to be a traditional part of our Graduation week activities.

Following Graduation, vacation periods away from the school began for the boys. The length of vacation days is determined entirely by the conduct and effort which has been shown by each boy during the preceding school year. All of the boys were away from the school for at least a week, and some had earned a much longer period of vacation time.



Horseshoe pitching, or "barnyard golf", gives plenty of fun during the summer months.



The North-Central part of Thompson's Island as seen from the air

Campus Notes

Softball was the principal outdoor sport during the month, and most of the boys enjoy playing this popular summer game. Games were played almost every day, and many excellent players were developed. Oftentimes interest was added when some of the instructors took part in the game.

Classes in Life Saving and Water Safety were held during the summer, and a large number of the boys passed the tests satisfactorily. This course is organized by the American Red Cross so the younger as well as the older boys, may have the great benefits of the fundamentals of water safety. Certificates were awarded those who did the work satisfactorily.

The Alumni Association conducted its

Annual Field Day on June 17, and a large number of graduates and friends visited the School to enjoy festivities. After meeting on the Front Lawn, and being greeted by Headmaster William M. Meacham, the group visited the many departments of the school. A picnic lunch was served at noon and during the afternoon a program of games, sorts and stunts was enjoyed.

We appreciate greatly a collection of magazines and other reading material sent us by Mr. Merton P. Ellis, '97, secretary of the Alumni Association.

On June 3 the Freshman Class gave a farewell party to the members of the graduating class. There were many fun-provoking activities, including the giving of joke presents, games and singing. After refreshments were served, a showing of motion pictures took place.

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

Lieut. LEONARD MARKLEY, '37, after having completed 18 months as a teacher of aviation cadets has a new assignment at a Tennessee air base. He is learning to fly the B-24 ship, and is pleased at the change in his duties.

Just a few weeks ago he flew to Bedford, Mass., and took the opportunity to fly over Thompson's Island for a few minutes and take a look at the school. He is nearing his third full year in the service, and has had but three days at home, so it has been impossible for him to visit us.

Some of our younger graduates are getting into the army aviation program, and Lieut. Markely points out that these boys are "lucky fellows, for the army hands out about the best there is when it comes to flying training."

PVT. EDWARD E. ANDREW, '35 U. S. M. C. R., has completed his first stages of duty as a Marine recruit, and is now doing more advanced work. He was especially happy to read about the F. T. S. boys in the armed forces, and everything at Thompson's Island is of great interest to him. A portion of his letter follows: "The Farm and Trades School has helped me more than anything else. It made a man of me, and you will never know my full appreciation of F. T. S."

He is married and has two daughters, Alice Elizabeth approaching her third birthday, and Janet Davis, now six months old.

PVT. DAVID G. HAEGER '42, is attending a New England college, in the army specialized training program. He

graduated from Norwood High School in June. His course of study at college includes Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English, American History and Physical Education. He had the unusual and happy experience of meeting our former agricultural instructor, Lieut. R. Carroll Jones while being issued his G. I. equipment. They enjoyed visiting together talking about days at F. T. S., and exchanged news, particularly of men in the service.

PVT. WILLIAM M. MEACHAM, JR., '37, is stationed at a Missouri air base, after having graduated with high honors from an army air school, as a radio operator-mechanic. During the next few weeks he will be assigned to his regular crew, put on a flying basis, have a furlough, and then be shipped overseas. At any rate, such a course of events is expected.

JAMES H. JARDINE, our former boat captain, has been promoted in rank to Master Sergeant. He is stationed at an army camp in Mississippi. Congratulations, Sergeant Jardine!

RALPH TALBOT, S1-c, '35, writes to thank us for the BEACON, which he very much enjoys. He is a member of the Sea Bees.

PVT. STEPHEN H. VINAL, '38, is a member of the parachute troops, and his regiment is being used for the training of recruits. The army does a wonderful job in equipping a man for action in an incredibly short time, and this graduate in the paratroop service is helping to train men in this important branch of the service.

NOTE: Because of unavoidable delay in printing this issue of the BEACON, some of the changes indicated occurred since July.

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, President
Hyde Park, Mass.
HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer
Arlington, Mass.

RAYMOND THOMAS, '26, Vice-President
Thompson's Island

MERTON P. ELLIS, '97, Secretary
77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

Alumni Field Day

The Annual Field Day of the Alumni Association took place on Bunker Hill Day, June 17. For some time previous plans for the event had been made, and everything was in readiness to welcome a large war-time group. The School boat, the Pilgrim III, made two trips to City Point in mid-morning, and the majority of the visitors arrived at this time, although many came in the early afternoon.

Upon arrival at the School a short, informal meeting was held on the front lawn. Clifton E. Albee, '21, Chairman of the Day, introduced the President of the Association, George G. Larsson, '17, who spoke briefly and then introduced the Headmaster, William M. Meacham. Mr. Meacham told of the progress that the School has made during the past few years, and spoke somewhat of plans for the future. He pointed out that the School had continued its great work in giving boys an education for an unbroken period of 130 years, and that the efficiency of the School had increased yearly, and was continuing to do so.

Following this meeting the graduates formed into small groups and began visiting about the island. There were a few who had not had the opportunity to visit for many years, and they were thoroughly impressed with the great strides forward which the School has made, particularly in the modernization of its housing facilities for the boys.

Our new ball field received its share of praise, for here was a project which surely reached back into the boyhood of every graduate present. Today we have a fine baseball diamond and football gridiron,

and other additions to the athletic plant will be made as circumstances permit. The plans of the construction of the field have extended over many years, and the alumni well know the effort which has been expended in this latest improvement to the education of boys at F. T. S.

Many of those present spent much time visiting the farm. The dairy and poultry plant were of much interest to the group.

Music was not neglected during the day, for a group of former band boys gathered to play once again the old tunes.

Shortly after noon a basket lunch was served, and the annual treat to supplement this supplied by the School of real Guernsey milk, baked beans and coffee was greatly enjoyed.

Next on the program was a ball game, during which some of the older "boys" discovered that although they had lost some of the vigor of youth, they still retained much of their batting technique. This was quite a game, and nearly everyone watched it to completion.

Later in the afternoon the undergraduates staged a program of races, for which the Alumni had donated substantial cash prizes. These games included foot races, and some of the novelty type, such as the "sack race", and the "crab race". This schedule of sports concluded the events of the day, and the boys at the School finished everything up right by giving the old grads a rousing cheer.

The Alumni Association wishes to take this opportunity to thank everyone at the School for helping make this day one of the pleasantest field days which the graduates have enjoyed.

THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 4 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. August 1944

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874



Campus Scene, Adams House

Harvesting Corn

Each year, during August, the corn harvesting season arrives. The most important part of this is getting in the silage corn, because this is used for feed for our cattle during the winter months.

The corn is first cut with hand cutters, and stacked in the corn field, so that it can conveniently be picked up and placed on our truck. It is then taken to the silo, and dumped beside of the cutting machine.

The stalks are lifted up onto a belt which carries them into the cutter where

they are cut into small pieces and blown up a pipe, to the top of the silo, where it falls into the silo. After each load is cut the silo is leveled.

When the silo is almost filled straw is thrown over the corn, and the silo is sealed. Then, during the cold weather, when there is no pasture feed, the silage becomes a very important feed for our cows.

It takes a lot of work to harvest our silage corn, but it is well worth it in every way.

George H. Bruce, Jr.

The Mackerel Season

About all of the boys at this School like to fish, and when there is playtime there is a rush to the wharf so as to get the best fishing spots. The best place for fishing is the end of the diving board on the swimming float, but fish are caught from almost any place on the wharf. For bait minnows, or "shiners", are used. Big schools of minnows pass by the floats, we net them and put them into pails of water, using them as they are needed.

The mackerel are very numerous, and they are easy to catch. On some days they bite almost as soon as the hooks hit the water. Darwin C. Baird caught the biggest one of the year which was $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and weighed $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. Bertil R. Holmberg caught the most fish, his total being 156. Paul W. Horton caught 152, Bruce E. Haeger 137, and John J. Goguen, 107.

The tinker mackerel, which are smaller than the regular mackerel are being caught now, and if anything they taste better than the big ones.

Bruce E. Haeger

A Day on the Farm

During the last two weeks I have been working on the farm, and I find it very interesting work.

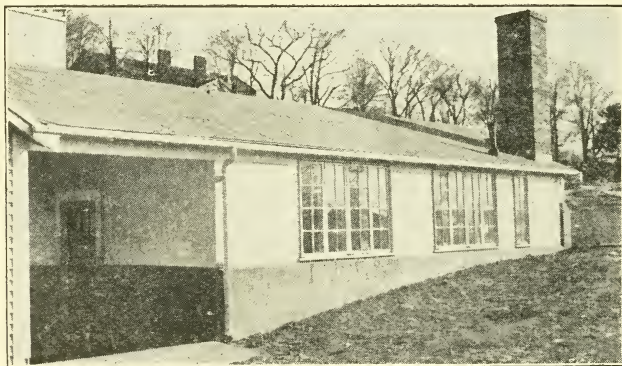
I report to the barn at 1:15 P. M. The first job is usually getting down hay, watering the horses, helping clean the cow barn, or some other task. Then I help hitch a team of horses to the manure spreader and spread manure over the fields. We usually spread six or seven loads during the afternoon.

The last thing we do is to help do the barn chores. This includes such jobs as cleaning the horse barn, feeding the horses, feeding the pigs, and so forth. We get the cows from the pasture, feed them and then feed the goats.

The latest news from the farm is that we have two litters of pigs, sixteen in all, and six cats.

A day on the farm may include much other work besides what is written in this article. We are never sure just what we will do from day to day, and this makes our work all the more interesting.

Arthur E. Powers



The Dairy at Our School

The Beacon

The BEACON is published each month. Just now it is a little behind schedule, because there wasn't much printing done during the summer vacation. But soon it will be printed on time.

The articles used are written by the boys, and often they are part of the English course in school. Also, the editor asks the boys to write on given titles, so that the most important happenings are reported.

It is hard to say which part of the BEACON is the most read. Often readers write telling us which part of the paper they like best. Some like the boys' articles best of all, some like the editorials, and some think the alumni notes are the most interesting parts of the paper.

The last letter we had about our school paper was from a soldier-graduate in New Guinea who wrote: "The BEACON is the best school paper out." We are glad that our readers like the paper, and take time to write us about it.

Frank N. Babick

Working on the Boat

On September 2 Mr. Meacham announced a change of work. I was surprised and delighted to be given the job of

working on the "Pilgrim III". There are two boys who work on the boat each morning, and two each afternoon. I work in the afternoon with Maurice E. McAllister. Our chief business is to make a trip to City Point at one o'clock, and another at five o'clock. I handle the stern line on all landings.

We do all the work which is usually done on board a boat, such as cleaning brass, splicing rope and keeping everything shipshape. This is all interesting work, and I think that being boat boy is the best job on the Island.

John S. Higgins

Working in the Shop

Every afternoon, at 1:15, I report to the woodworking shop, where I am busy until five o'clock. Often my first work is to help with the beginning sloyd class. When the sloyd class period is finished I am taught how to repair things which are broken, how to sharpen scissors, knives, and other numerous jobs which the shop is called upon to do. The latest job we have been doing is to repair benches, scrape and refinish them. We also fixed a clock. We try to fix anything that can be fixed.

Thornton B. Lauriat



Campus Scene—Bowditch House

Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by
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FRANK N. BABICK - - - - - Editor

Vol. 48 No. 4 August 1944

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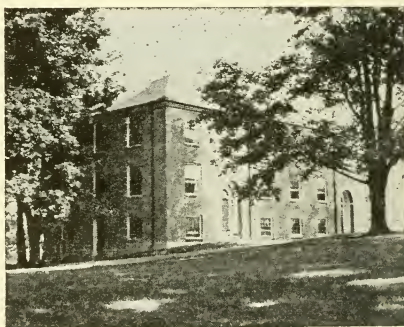
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If the people of the world could agree that working together, each for the good of the other, and all following a divine guidance we would not need to have so much trouble as exists in the world today. We have always had similar troubles. History indicates that as the people of a nation have become more selfish and corrupt that nation has suffered severely. When the people of a nation have become deeply conscious of a divine power and lived accordingly, that nation has prospered and the people have become happy.

Often in history the good people of a small or militarily weak country have suffered from the marauding hordes of a neighbor of low ideals and even less regard for the rights of others. This can be attributed to the low ideals of the aggressor nation.

We are firmly convinced that the best form of political organization is our own democratic way of life. This alone is not enough to insure our progress toward a more happy world. Neither can we completely blame others for the troubled world affairs unless and until each of us is ready to do our share toward active participation in a program of religious living and complete acceptance of the laws of our land.



Campus Scene—Dormitory A

Old Colony Trust Company
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 ALFRED C. MALM, Treasurer
 One Federal Street, Boston 6

No one can live selfishly alone. Every person must recognize the rights of others and be devoted whole-heartedly to the service of mankind.

Our school is founded and operated on these principles. We are certain that if all the world could be educated to this way of life we would have little of the trouble of mankind's self-imposed strife.

Topics in Brief

It has been our great privilege to have a series of Sunday evening sermons delivered during the summer months by our principal, Dr. John B. Cook. These real "down to earth", addresses have greatly enriched the lives of our boys, and every Sunday evening each boy can be certain of receiving advice and suggestions which he can put to immediate use in his daily living. Members of the faculty, as well as the boys, have appreciated their good fortune in hearing this series of sermons.

July Fourth was observed at F. T. S. by having a Friends' Day, and a large number of the boys' parents and friends came to help the boys celebrate the day. Transportation was by the boat "723".

Our boat crew has done a fine job in the construction and erection of a new derrick, replacing the former one which had become weakened with age.

More than anything else during the month, the boys have enjoyed swimming. Along with recreational water sports, Red Cross courses in Life Saving and Water Safety were conducted. Many boys developed into excellent swimmers during the season.

Throughout New England weather conditions did not permit bumper crops

of farm produce this summer, and our farm failed to equal its average yield in some crops. The yield was, we are glad to report, more than we expected from many vegetables, although the field crops did not fare so well. Two litters of pigs arrived, and our piggery has thus been increased by sixteen members, which foretells many excellent roast pork dinners during the winter months.

Two groups have enjoyed outings at the Island, they being the Ruggles Street Baptist Church Choir, and the Field and Forest Club. Both groups were escorted through the departments of our school and were visibly impressed with the work being done here.

Mrs. Walter B. Foster, wife of our late graduate-manager Walter B. Foster, has kindly sent us a collection of books for our library which we are glad to have.

Fishing during the past several weeks has been especially good, and the catch of mackerel has been large. Nearly all of the boys enjoy this sport.

Many of the boys devoted a great deal of their spare time helping on our farm during the summer, but the flower garden care was not neglected. Beautiful flower beds were developed about the campus, and most of the boys had individual plots, where they could well develop this most worth-while hobby.

Tennis is one of the popular sports of the summer months, and each year tournaments in this sport are conducted. Play is arranged so that both younger, as well as older, more advanced players, have an equal opportunity to enjoy the sport.

There are always a number of British warships in port, and many men from these ships have made use of our facilities during the summer months. They have particularly enjoyed coming here for their daily swim. We had a group as our guests one evening for a lawn supper, which was followed by a ball game. This was a most enjoyable occasion. Many have exchanged names and home addresses, and there should be a pleasant exchange of letters following the close of the war.

Many of these visitors have signed our Visitors' Register, and the names and addresses are of much interest.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, July 1854 As Kept by the Superintendent

2. The superintendent read a discourse to the boys. Pre ent Geo. McLellan. Gave out 94 tooth brushes to the boys.

4. This being the anniversary of the American Independence, a good dinner and suitable refreshments were given to the boys who as usual spent the day merrily and sat up in the evening to see the fireworks.

22. Mr. Morse's mowers left.

A Beach Cookout

Last Sunday afternoon the members of our Scout troop had a cookout on the beach near the scout camp. We all assembled at the flag pole at two o'clock. There were more than thirty scouts present, with knives, hatchets, and cooking equipment. We hiked to the east beach and from there up to the scout camp beach.

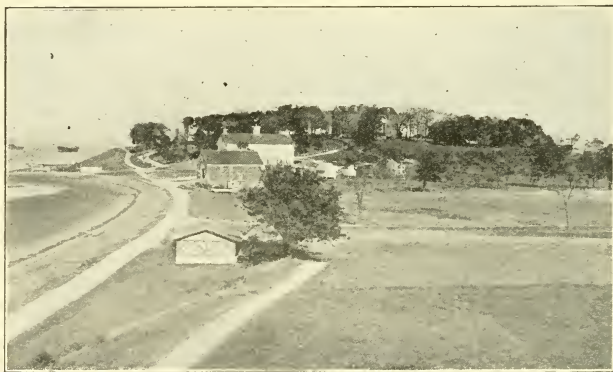
Each scout made a dugout and filled it full of small shavings and soon had a fire burning. Heavier wood was put on and when the fire was burning well, the scouts hunted for flat stones. These were placed on the fire, and when they got sizzling hot we cooked on them.

Everyone had plenty to cook, and to eat, and we finished our cookout just before five o'clock. This made a pleasant afternoon.

Harold W. Kew, Jr.

Alumni Association Notes

We are planning on having a Get-Together early in November, and the Committee is busy formulating tentative plans for the occasion. This will be held in connection with the regular Fall meeting of the Association.



View from the West Beach

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

S-SGT. WILLIAM E. NELSON, '31, is a member of the First Transport Squadron Ferrying Division, being radio operator in the A. T. C. He flies with the "Fireball" Airlines between this country and India. He finds this work very interesting, because although he spends most of his time overseas, he still comes back to the States after each trip.

His letter was addressed to the Editor of the BEACON, and like most of the graduates in the armed forces, he enjoys his monthly copy of the school paper.

LINWOOD L. MEACHAM, '42, S-2c, has begun studying Naval Aviation, at a Tennessee air base. He writes that his studying has commenced with work in the mess hall, but it won't be long before he'll be in regular classes.

WILLIAM H. BRITTON, Rdm 3-c, ex-'42, writes that he has been given a new assignment much to his liking. He has recently been promoted to Petty officer 3rd Class.

SGT. EDWIN W. COLBY, '40, began his army duties in the coast artillery. He was later transferred to the field artillery. He has been changed again, this time back to the coast artillery. He is at an army camp in Virginia, waiting to attend school to study new equipment. This course will take seven weeks.

We are deeply appreciative to GEORGE I. LEIGHTON, '04, Mus, 1-c, for his gift of the "Bluejackets' Manual".

ROBERT L. PECCE, '41, H. A. 1-c, writes from his tent, located on an Island in the central Pacific. He is awaiting orders to join a Marine outfit, where his job will be to care for those wounded in battle. Winthrop Davidson, '40, is at the same base, and will probably be assigned the same type of work, and perhaps in the same unit.

Until their orders come through both of these graduates are working in the dispensary at the base, caring for malaria patients, and others affected with tropical diseases.

WILLIAM P. DUFAULT, '41, S 1-c, is now serving in the Pacific, after having seen considerable action in the Atlantic. He was married on Dec. 29, 1943, and was ordered to sea a few days later. He has not had the opportunity to return home since that time, and looks forward to a short leave, as circumstances permit.

Congratulations to Cpl. and Mrs. Calvin L. Wilder on the arrival of Suzanne Lee on July 3, 1944, at Billerica, Mass. Official weight, 7¼ pounds.

WILLIAM J. KLAILA, '41, Rdm 3-c, has been at sea practically all of this year. His job, he reports, is an interesting one, and the hours of his watch go by quickly. He sends his regards to everyone at F. T. S., and is very appreciative of the BEACONS he has been sent.

WILLIAM C. BURNS, '37, AMM3-c, sends us greetings from England. On his trip over STANLEY C. MORTON, '41 was a member of the ship's crew. Both of these graduates had many pleasant chats together, and looked over their collections of school papers.

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77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

We print below a letter from SGT. FRANCIS D. MCAULIFFE, '37, who is stationed at the Headquarters of the Amphibious Corps, somewhere in the Pacific Theatre of war.

4 May, 1944

Dear Mr. Meacham:

"I am writing to thank you for forwarding me the latest issue of the BEACON, and also, to say that I shall be anxiously awaiting future copies of your personal letter which you have just started to write for those of us who are scattered about the globe. No need to say that I think this idea of 'writing to everybody at once' is a grand idea.

"There is one thing that always strikes my thought processes as I read the BEACON, and that is the fact that the School continues along much the same lines as of old. Indeed, in most cases, with the same old instructors. Somehow it doesn't seem possible that this could be, with things changing as they are. But yet I continue to read of such instructors as Mr. Kihlstrom, Mr. Albee, and the weekly treks of Mr. Warren to the Island for band rehearsals.

"I know there have been many, many changes these past few years, changes for the better too. But how pleasant it is to hear these familiar names, and to know that it's the same old F. T. S.

"Trusting this finds you and your family, and all on the island enjoying good health, and carrying on as always."

Most sincerely,
Francis D. McAuliffe

Sergeant Harry David Dow

The war department has definitely stated that Staff Sergeant HARRY D. DOW, a former pupil, was killed in action, after it had previously reported him as missing.

Sgt. Dow enlisted in the air corps in April, 1942. He saw service in the Carriibbean and South Pacific theatres of war, and was recalled to this country. He was then transferred to the European area.

He made a notable record for himself, and his commander, Maj.-Gen. N. F. Twining, commanding officer of the 15th air force, with whom he was connected, said in part:

"He has credited his name with a very fine record. His keen sense of duty and complete disregard of danger have won for him the air medal and oak leaf cluster." Sgt. Dow also had a good conduct medal.

His group was ordered out to a bombing mission near Bucharest. His plane was intercepted by some German fighters which apparently damaged it because it was seen to go into a steep glide and finally crash. At least nine parachutes were observed to have emerged from it.

Lieut. FREDERICK E. MUNICH, '20, writes from high up in the Himalayas, somewhere in India, where he is spending a two weeks furlough. He tells of traveling by horseback on roads literally cut out of cliffs with a drop of anywhere from 500 to 1000 feet, and few guardrails of any type. The letter was written from a peak where he could look over four mountain ranges.

THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 5 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. Sept. 1944

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874



Classroom Scene

The Sophomore Class

The Sophomore Class started the academic year with ten members. Numerically this is a comparatively small class, considering the size of the many sophomore classes.

Recitations begin at 7:35 A. M. and are completed at 11:30 A. M. The first subject each morning is Civics, or Social Problems. This is a lecture course, and a thorough report in each boy's notebook is expected. The next class is English and includes the study of English Literature. The Senior Scholastic is used for this subject, as well as the various textbooks. The

third period is given to the study of Geometry. We find this interesting, but it requires a considerable amount of outside preparation. English History follows a short recess, and this class is interesting. This is not a difficult subject if a student keeps up in his reading and is able to make good notes.

Some boys are taking second year Latin, while some are taking first year Spanish. All of the class members are taking a standard college preparatory course.

Upon completing this year's work the members of this class will receive their highly prized diplomas in June.

Louis A. Towne, Jr.



Our Band Participating in a School Music Festival

The Band

Now that the school year has begun, and all of the boys are back from vacations, our bandmaster, Mr. Frank L. Warren, has started weekly band rehearsals again. He comes each Friday night and we rehearse for two hours.

We lost a great many players by graduation, and other reasons, and some of those who left were good band members. We will have to work hard to build a real good band by spring, but we will do it. The interest and enthusiasm of the band boys shows that we have a good year ahead.

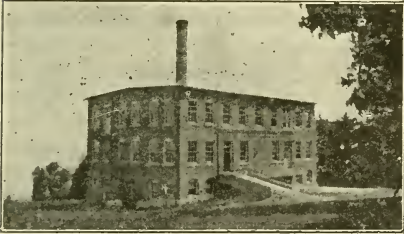
There are twenty-five members in the band now, and we hope to have nearly double that number after a winter of work.

Most of the new boys are interested and already they are taking lessons. Usually an older boy helps a beginner with his early lessons and get him started.

The band has played at assemblies four times already this year. Only marches have been played, but soon the boys will be ready to play many other kinds of music.

The graduates are very much interested in the Band, because most of them are former members. They come in large numbers to each public appearance of the Band, and often some attend rehearsals at the School. Many former band boys are musicians in the armed forces, and all the service branches are represented.

Frank N. Babick



Campus Scene—The Power House

New Boys

At Graduation time each year, and during the summer, many boys leave the School. In September new students are admitted to the school to bring the enrollment up to normal.

At the beginning of the school year there are many applications for admission to the School. These applicants, and their parents, meet with the admission committee in Boston. This year there were more than forty boys considered, and twenty-five were accepted.

At the meeting the boys are given an

achievement test and a test by the school doctor. The boys and their parents talk over the matter of having the boy attend F. T. S. If a boy is worthy, shows initiative, has excellent character and is a good normal boy, he has a good chance of being accepted. During the day or two following the meeting, the decision is made by the committee, and the new boys are informed whether or not they are to be students at Thompson's Island. The date for coming to the School is also given.

After the new boys get to the Island the enrollment is brought up to standard, and the new boys quickly become acquainted and adjusted, and the new year starts. The boys are one happy family. Of course the new boys have rules to learn and follow, but it doesn't take long, and soon they are members of good old F. T. S. They'll get good training, and when they graduate they'll be able to hold high the traditions of the school colors, Gold and Blue.

Chester C. McLeod, Jr.



Model Plane Building is a Popular Hobby

Thompson's Island Beacon

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One Federal Street, Boston 6

This is the time of starting the new school year. American youth looks forward with enthusiasm to a fresh, vigorous start in the development and unfolding of life.

Just as a rose is most beautiful and fragrant when the blossom is well formed, completely developed and unfolded to the sun, so is the boy or girl most richly aware of inherent qualities when the hidden powers have been uncovered, opened and developed through the process of education. One of the tragedies of life is the lack of awareness of one's own possibilities and leaving unfinished the program of education. Seldom does a boy or girl, man or woman reach the maximum heights of mental and personality development.

One may wonder why an employer selects a man or woman of more years of formal schooling instead of another who may have greater abilities. And we may wonder why a diploma is so important to business activities which involve little if any of the studies pursued.

Fundamentally the employer is asking about the character, intelligence and good judgment of the candidate and it is assumed that these qualities are more abundant and better developed in the more academically advanced person.

In getting knowledge we have nothing



Scene on the Campus

to lose but the more we know and the better developed our minds and personalities the more we have to offer to society and the greater service we are prepared to render.

Topics in Brief

A popular Sunday afternoon diversion is a hike around the beach, and often the hike is interrupted for swimming, marshmallow roast or some other such fun, according to season. It is amazing what can be discovered on the beach. Some of the boys have made collections of odd articles. Parts of wrecked vessels are found from time to time, also various shipping cases with interesting addresses, and many other articles, all of which could be used to form the basis of an interesting story. The principal landmarks of Boston Harbor may be seen from our beaches, and most of the boys know the stories and legends connected with them. Then, of course, all types of ships are seen, for the

harbor is a busy place, especially in these times of war.

The boys made the most of the month of August, enjoying summer sports to the utmost. Baseball, softball, tennis, badminton and other activities on the playground were enjoyed. Water sports were even more popular, and the daily swims were the high spots in the fun of the month. Suppers out-of-doors, on the lawn and on the beach, were held, adding much to the variety of the daily program. We believe in recreation for everyone, and fortunately we have the facilities to build a program in which all may join.

Our coal supply for next winter has been delivered to us, and is stored in the power house coal bunker, and in a place adjacent to the boat house. In former years we transported the coal from the barge in small dumpcarts, but different arrangements with the coal company have been made whereby the company moves the coal for us in five-ton trucks, thereby effecting a great saving in time and labor.



Toasting Marshmallows

The flower gardens about the campus are most beautiful at this time of year, and have been a source of great delight to us. The boys have done a fine job in caring for them, and some of the boys have become very much interested in the care of gardens.

Our silo is about filled to capacity, and our farm has completed its annual job of harvesting and cutting the silage corn. Good weather helped in the work, and the corn-cutting was done in a comparatively short period.

After a great deal of hard work, over a period of years our baseball diamond has become completed and a series of games has been played. Those who know the Island, especially the graduates, will marvel at the completed project. We are confident that our diamond will meet approval of ball players generally, and the completion of the project gives

all of us great satisfaction. Although a regular league was not organized this year, due to lack of time, the boys surely did enjoy the informal games they played. With both a good softball and a good baseball diamond our boys will not lack in facilities to enjoy these sports, and few there are who do not participate in these great American games.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, August 1854

As Kept by the Superintendent

5. C. Bates, of Hingham, brought some whortleberries for the boys and addressed them on Sunday the 6th.

22. The monthly visit of the boys' friends took place to-day. Present M. Grant, G. H. Kuhn and J. Bird. Esqrs. of the Board of Managers and P. Driscoll, W. M. Robinson, John Finnegan and James Finnegan, former pupils. The men came to stone the cellar for the farm house.



The Main Building, Erected in 1833

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

CLYDE W. ALBEE, '33, a member of the Seabees, writes from "Tinian in the Mariannas", telling of his experiences there. The camp is located in a yam field, with quantities of ants, mosquitoes, mud flies and other pests. Army field rations provide food. He says that the Seabees can get by on anything, but hopes that conditions will improve, once this construction job is well started. The ocean trip took 46 days, and was fairly comfortable considering the tropical heat and rains. The town of Tinian, he reports was pretty well destroyed. The public buildings, made of concrete were demolished, and the private houses, made of wood and tin either were smashed or shot full of holes. The big sugar mill is now a mass of twisted girders and rubble, with the machinery and ovens lying under tons of debris. Cows, goats and chickens roam the streets. Japs are still in hiding in the many caves on the island, roaming about at night for food.

Like all the other boys in the service, he longs for the time when the war will be over. Happily, conditions indicate that the end is not so remote as it once seemed to be.

CPL. CHARLES H. GRANT, '40, is now a paratrooper, and is training at a Georgia camp. He likes his new assignment, and everything about it.

MYRON A. PRATT, '38, we are happy to report, has been promoted to the rank of corporal. He is a member of the Marine Corps.

MURDOCK C. MOORE, '39, sends another of his typical letters, this time from France. He says that he doesn't meet any F. T. S. boys because he isn't ashore long enough. His duties as a radio officer in the Merchant Marine keep him pretty busy. His total time ashore during the month of August was eight hours. He enjoys receiving the BEACON, because it reminds him of the School, which in turn reminds him of Boston, which in turn reminds him of his friends.

Corp. EUGENE PROCTOR, '38, is a military policeman at a Massachusetts air base. He has been stationed at this field for some time. He is trying for special training, and hopes to attend an army school in the near future.

CPL. HOWARD M. COLPITTS, '39, enlisted in the Marine Corps on August 20, 1942. He received his boot training at Parris Island, and was further trained at Virginia, North Carolina and California camps. In December 1943, he was shipped overseas to take part in the Marshalls' campaign. He has been in four major battles, including Saipan and Tinian during this current year.

He is a graduate of Wakefield High School, and at the time of his enlistment he was a clerk in the Probate Court, of Middlesex County, East Cambridge.

E. M. BICKFORD, '10, CM 1-c, wrote from a hospital bed somewhere in Australia, where he was confined for "a short stay, nothing serious". It was the 34th anniversary of his graduation from F.T.S.

He is very much interested in his Alma Mater, and looking forward to the day when he can again visit Thompson's Island.

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77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

The letter printed below will interest our readers.

Dear Mr. Meacham:

"Here I am in a fox-hole somewhere in France. A lot of exciting things are happening over here. It is wonderful to be able to relax at night and read the Thompson's Island BEACON which has been sent me. It is great to read about what is going on at the School. I am very proud to be a graduate.

"The first aid course at F. T. S. has helped me very much. My thanks go to Mr. Thomas whose help is very much appreciated.

"Give my regards to the faculty, boys and remember me to your two sons.

"I hope that I shall be able to visit you all in the near future. My hope is that I shall be in civilian clothes.

"Au revoir, until we meet."

Thomas S. D'Intinosanto, '38

JAMES F. ST. COEUR '42, S1-C writes from overseas, to express his appreciation for kindnesses which some of the folks at Thompson's Island have shown to him. He hopes to be rated this month, as radio man, third class. He, like many of the other boys, is continuing his education in the Army Institute. After the war it is his desire to do collegiate work, studying Journalism.

M-Sgt. JAMES H. JARDINE, a former instructor has notified us of a change of address. He is a member of an emergency boat crew, and his address is in care of the Postmaster, San Francisco.

PFC JOHN P. DAVIS, '36, has written from New Guinea, and his letter says in part:

"I wish to thank you for the BEACONS, It is the best school paper out. The Campus scenes throughout the paper bring back many happy memories. I hope to be able to visit you all soon, after being away for so long.

"I have spent three years in the S. W. P. A. The show gets more exciting as the campaign progresses. Japan's rising sun has run its course, thanks to MacArthur and his men."

Sgt. ROY M. DOLE, '35, writes from "Somewhere in the Aleutians", to thank F. T. S. for sending the BEACON. The articles in the BEACON bring back many memories, and he is always interested in the progress of the Band, and its annual concerts in Faneuil Hall.

He has been stationed in the Aleutians for 22 months, and he is hoping that he may be granted a furlough soon.

His schoolmate and pal, Sgt. Weston O. Page, '38, is stationed also on the Aleutians, specifically on West Attu.

ROGER E. HARDY, a former pupil now with the U. S. Merchant Marine, has written us a fine letter from overseas. He looks forward to the happy time when the F. T. S. boys now in the service will have a great reunion.

PHILIP EDELMAN, a former pupil, sent telephone greetings not long ago. He is in the Navy, has been married six years and lives in New Jersey. In Africa he met LLOYD BLANCHARD, '32 who is also in the Navy.

THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 6 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. Oct. 1944

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874



The Classic Front of Our Main Building

Our Honor Roll

One of the jobs which we have done in the printing office is to prepare and print the School Honor Roll, and frame it so that it could be hung in Bowditch House. This list contains the names of our Managers, Former Instructors and Graduates, who are fighting on the war fronts all over the world.

The frame is approximately 24 x 36 inches, and was made ready for its use in our sloyd room. The type used in printing

the Honor Roll is Franklin Gothic. Because of the large number of names to be printed, this type, in a condensed style, was considered best for the purpose.

The Honor Roll is printed in five columns, in black ink on white Linweave Bristol, and the graduates are listed by classes. As might be expected, the classes from 1938 through 1941 have the greatest number in the armed forces.

Beneath this Honor Roll is another frame. This includes the names of those

whom we hold "In Memoriam", for they have given their lives in defense of our country.

All of us are proud of the accomplishments of our graduates in the armed forces, and several times each day we are reminded of them by our Honor Roll, which hangs in our dining room, in Bowditch House.

Frank N. Babick

Our Boys

Our boys were ready and volunteered
When they heard the rumors of war.
They're all proud of the Country they
live in
It's a country worth fighting for,
They'll all do their best to protect it
No matter what the cost,
Though they know of other wars in
bygone days
And of millions of lives that were lost.
But our boys aren't the kind that scare
easily
And each night we all should pray
And give our thanks to the good Lord
above
For the boys that he gave U. S. A.

A Student

Vacation Memories

During the summer months I had a lot of fun. Right after school was over in June I went home for two weeks, then I returned here for the summer. The first excitement I had was to go swimming. Then classes were made for Life Saving and Water Safety, and I was glad to be able to study these subjects. Finally I passed the tests, and got my Red Cross emblem. Was I glad! We had all kinds of games and sports during vacation including fishing, tennis, baseball, badminton and volleyball. I fished whenever I could, and caught more than anyone else this year. Also, I played badminton a lot. This game is plenty of fun. At night we listened to the radio, or maybe had other things to do. Those are the principal things I did during vacation, but if I put down everything I did I would have to take all day naming the things I did.

Paul W. Horton

Our Football Team

Very soon after the opening of the academic year on September 5, our Supervisor, Mr. Thomas, called the boys together to organize teams for our football



Rare indeed is the boy who doesn't enjoy working on our farm, and especially if he has the opportunity to care for the farm animals. The boys then become real pals and buddies with the horses and other farm animals are also adopted as special pets. This privilege of learning about life by seeing and working with living animals is an opportunity few of our boys fail to grasp.

program. We had some trouble choosing teams, because a group of students had just come, and we weren't sure of their athletic ability. The older boys were organized into two teams and Chester C. McLeod and Henry J. Porter were elected as captains. Then the younger boys elected captains and three more teams were chosen. The captains of these three teams are: John Higgins, George H. Bruce Jr. and Robert Patterson. All the teams began drilling and getting ready for their first games, which were played about a week later. The boys also chose the names of their teams, which, in every case, was a name of a branch of the armed forces, such as Marines.

Games will be held each Saturday and holiday until Thanksgiving and we all expect good close competition. So far the games have been hard fought.

The varsity is going into action again, for the first time since we have been on a wartime basis, and our team will play Cohasset High School on October 28.

Harold W. Kew, Jr.

Education

This is meant to be a short message to the boys of F. T. S., to the effect that no one can ever get too much education.

First, the number of failures in our schools today is appalling. In most cases the ability is present, but ambition and proper spirit is lacking. If a student is not making headway in school think of what it will mean if he is not promoted. One precious year of education practically wasted! So make the best use of time, and study as long and hard as possible, for time lost can never be regained.

William Robbins

The Coal Barge

During the heavy wind here a few days ago, the result of a tropical hurricane, one of the large coal barges which have moorings just off our Island broke loose and stuck in the rocky bottom just a few yards from our north end shore. At low tide it was possible to walk to the boat.

These barges are much larger than one would think, and close to they look almost like a big transport ship. The people on this one walked around on the deck as though nothing had happened. After a distress signal a few tugs came but couldn't either get close enough or didn't have the equipment to be of help. A coast guard boat brought a strong cable to

Please turn to Page 6



The WINSLOW has been one of our boats since 1917, and has long been a familiar craft to those acquainted with Dorchester Bay. A few years ago it was rebuilt and equipped with a new marine engine. Working on boats gives our boys a practical training which they enjoy.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by
THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL
 Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

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FRANK N. BABICK *Editor*

Vol. 48 No 6 October 1944

Subscription Price One Dollar Per Year

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Always we are thinking of our over two hundred boys in the armed services in every theater of action, outposts and training camps. The many letters coming from you men out there, your visits when on leave, your pictures and various souvenirs are all cherished by us at the School.

Most of the news from here must come through the BEACON and we are deeply conscious of your interest in this source of news from your alma mater. We understand that the copies sent to you are also read extensively by your buddies. To each of them we also extend our deep and sincere regards.

In this column we are tempted to note incidents related by many of the boys in service, some serious and some humorous. It is our impression, however, that items and thoughts from and about the home front are most desired. This limited space probably should be filled with local incidents and possibly a smattering of what we are thinking about the present and the future.

We hesitate to mention that two of our six dogs, Queenie and Mopsy, engaged in a battle the other day when we were having a picnic supper on the lawn in front of Bowditch House where the boys' flower gardens used to be.

The fact that two of our prize Guernseys, Dora and Ann, got out of the upper pasture Saturday afternoon and were driven into the barn and put in the wrong stanchions by a boat boy and two new boys might interest some. Of course these boys, not being milkers, could not be expected to know the proper places of the cows.

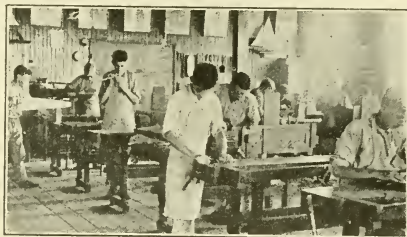
The fact that we are dreaming of a grand reunion on Thompson's Island when this world chaos is over will strike a happy chord with every lad in service. No doubt you will all want to take your old place in the band. How about a turn at kitchen duty? Of course a pot of Boston baked beans will be indispensable.

Well, think of us often and keep the letters coming. They are great.

Topics in Brief

The month of September has brought with it that most popular of all sports, Football. All of our boys, with two or three exceptions, are members of one of the five teams. Four of the teams play each Saturday, and the competition is keen. We shall begin interscholastic competition again this season, for the first time since the war began, with a game with Cohasset High School on October 28.

On October 16 the Sophomore Class gave an unusual program at Assembly.



Boys at work in the Sloyd Room. This is a valuable and popular course

Each member of the class drew, by lot, a question based upon the work in the Social Problems class and spoke for two to three minutes on the subject. Besides giving the boys valuable experience in expressing themselves before a group, it gave the audience an opportunity to note the type of work done in this class. Upon hearing the speakers one realizes that the Social Problems course surely is of great importance, especially in these troubled times.



The Band on the South Lawn

On September 24 a Friends' Day was held. This was the first time that many of the visitors had seen our School, because early this month a new group of boys was admitted and many of these new boys had several visitors. The many departments and buildings of the School were inspected, and the boys took pleasure in escorting their parents and friends about the campus. It was gratifying to hear the many fine comments made about the School, and the many unusual opportunities which our boys have.

Extensive repairs are being made on our boat house by our boat crew. The building will have a new foundation, and will be rebuilt wherever necessary, so that it shall be in first class condition throughout. The wharf will be given attention also, and much of the planking will be replaced, as time and weather permit.

The boys have been competing for the Guy Lowell tennis cups during the fall months, and the competition is almost at a close. Upon two silver cups each year there is engraved the names of the tournament winners.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, September 1854
As Kept by the Superintendent

6. Went to the city with the boys, ninety-six in number.

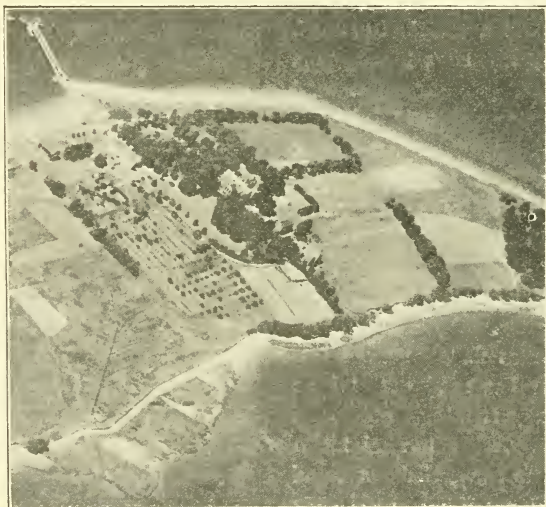
53. Jos. R. Grose and Michael McMahon former pupils came over on a visit.

30. Returned from Charlestown.

Continued from Page 3

the barge, and after being hooked up a tug took the cable and began to pull. After a while the cable snapped and slid across the water like a rubber band. Since then several attempts have been made, but the barge has not been moved as yet.

Bruce E. Haeger



View from the Air

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

LIEUT. BERTRAND R. EASTON, '23, brings us up to date on his military career. In the Spring of 1943 he was commissioned a Lieutenant and since then has been in four alerted units. At the moment, we expect that he is in an active theatre of war.

One of his early duties was convoy officer in the Ordnance battalion that was responsible for the supplying of the combat teams that took Attu and Kiska. Next, he was Area Property Officer at a post in Southern California, a job which entailed much accounting. His next work was Adjutant, or Acting Adjutant in a Battalion Headquarters. With but 48 hours notice this duty was changed and he was transferred and on his way to one of the fighting fronts. His home address is 155 Park Street, Attleboro, Massachusetts.

SGT. EDWIN B. CROUCH, '38, has written a fine letter from Africa, and a part of it follows. We feel sure it will be appreciated.

Dear Mr. Meacham:

"I received your letter today and it is a great pleasure to hear from you and the folks at F. T. S. The last two BEACONS were interesting, particularly the pictures of Gardener Hall and the Old Elm. They bring back many pleasant memories of joyful days.

"The Gym reminds one of the swell and at that time somewhat eerie Hallowe'en parties held there. The basketball games and the various other games played there are not forgotten joys of yesteryear. The Old Elm brings to mind the games of tag

and relievio that were enjoyed so lustily. It was also famous for its bull sessions. I can see the old tree as if I were once again sitting under it. It was like a big friend that stretched its branches to shade the boys in the hot summer months and provide leaves to be piled up and dove into in the fall.

"The old print shop too, has memories that stay with one always. The smell of the ink, the hammering of the presses as the BEACON was being printed, and the cases of type that were so hard to set right when they became pied. The laundry, with the swishing water in the washing machine, the smell of the clean clothes in the dryer, the snow white floor that was scrubbed day in and day out also are pleasant memories. The soap making was an interesting and valuable job that is remembered by all. The basement where lumber was stored and where various mischievousness was incurred is another favorite memory."

Commander J. S. VINING, C. E., '23, writes to express his appreciation for copies of the BEACON and other correspondence from F. T. S. He notes in his letter that his home is within walking distance of the home of Harry E. Brenton, Class of 1890, and the Beacon article about Mr. Brenton recalled this fact to mind. Mr. Brenton has done a fine job in transforming the property into one of the finest to be found anywhere. Commander Vining also notes that the school paper has a familiar ring to it, with all the similar names repeating, even though the owners of those names are not related. His mail will reach him addressed to Tenaflly, New Jersey.

If you haven't written lately, why not bring us up-to-date on your Service career?

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

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Hyde Park, Mass.
HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer
Arlington, Mass.

RAYMOND THOMAS, '26, Vice-President
Thompson's Island

MERTON P. ELLIS, '97, Secretary
77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

EDWARD A. MOORE, '79, writes from Interlachen, Florida, and gives us some interesting details of his daily life. He had the biggest Victory garden in town this summer, and the care of it kept him very busy. He is much interested in the affairs of this Florida town, and is serving as Mayor for a third term, after having served on the town council for nine years, and is a past president of that body. He is also the present Deputy Sheriff of the county. He adds the fact that, in 1843 Interlachen was planned by Ex-Gov. Long of Massachusetts. The streets are named after the streets of Boston, and this was quite an incentive to Mayor Moore, who, through the years, has contributed notably to the civic interests of the town.

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hobson, whose marriage on August 20, 1944, has been lately announced. Mr. Hobson, who is a member of the Class of 1927, has been a frequent visitor and has always evidenced great interest in his beloved Alma Mater. Mrs. Hobson was the former Hazel Virginia Holmes. The wedding took place in Norton, Massachusetts, and mail sent to that town will reach the happy couple.

RUSSELL LONG, '24, has entered a subscription to the BEACON, and he plans to visit us as soon as convenient. His address is 1 Huntington Ave., Walpole, Mass.



A typical group of F. T. S. boys. This informal type of picture arouses much interest among our graduates.

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THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 7 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. Nov. 1944

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874



The Stock Barn and Cattle Barn

Our stock barn was built in 1861, and in 1927 the cattle barn was erected. The addition of this new barn in 1927 gave our agricultural department equipment second to none in the furtherance of our farm program. In the same year the Guernsey herd was started, which today is recognized as one of the finest of pure-bred Guernsey herds anywhere. Very few of

our boys go through our school without some dairy experience, and some of the boys become very much interested in this department of the farm. In 1940 another smaller building, containing modern pasteurizing and bottling equipment was built, giving the boys further training in milk processing, which is a very important and valuable training.

Hallowe'en

Of all the evenings when the boys at F. T. S. have fun, I think Hallowe'en is the most celebrated. Most of the entertainment takes place in the gymnasium, and it begins there at six o'clock. First on the program is the Hallowe'en supper, with many kinds of sandwiches, cider, apples, pumpkin pie and pickles. The hall is decorated with pumpkins, corn stalks, fancy lanterns and other pretty things and as we eat we sat in the midst of these decorations.



Boys in Hallowe'en costume—Dionne Quints

After we have had supper a program of stunts and contests is held. This year we had ducking for apples, peanut races, beanbag tosses, pinning the tail on the donkey, flying apples, bean counts and other such events. For most of these contests prizes were given to successful contestants.

At 8:30 we went to the assembly hall where the costume parade took place. Many of the boys were in costume and gave short skits and stunts. The costumes were very pretty, and the skits were good, especially the movie stars. In this the leading movie actors appeared as a reader called their names. Another excellent part of the program was the "Bowditch House Minstrels", which was put on by

the Bowditch dormitory boys. This was mostly songs and jokes, and everyone enjoyed them.

Bruce E. Haeger

A Spelling Bee

Every week the boys in the eighth grade have a spelling bee. Our teacher selects the captains and in a few minutes the teams are chosen. The captains know who the good spellers are in the class and they are mostly just naturally good spellers. Some who study hard are also good, although they have to work harder to learn the words.

The teacher uses words which we have had in school, and which we all ought to know. If enough boys aren't eliminated before the time is up we notice our teacher hunting through another part of the book to get more difficult words. Usually all of the class are eliminated, except for two or three. These are known as the champion spellers for the week, and the teacher has a prize for them.

The Friday spelling bees are very much liked by all of the boys.

Harold W. Kew, Jr.

A Trip to the Yankee Network

On Saturday afternoon November 4, five boys from the sixth grade and thirteen other boys visited the Yankee Network studios in Boston. Mrs. Fullum, one of our teachers, was in charge.

We saw two reels of moving pictures, and both had to do with Frequency Modulation. This is a kind of radio reception which eliminates static and other noises. The Yankee Network has two transmitting stations, one at Paxton, Mass., and the other at Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. At the Mt. Washington location the temperature ranges from 71 degrees in summer down to 46 degrees below in the winter. All the food and supplies for the

winter months are taken to the transmitter during the summer. The engineers work eighteen days, and come down for twelve. Sometimes, if skiing is good, it takes three or more hours to come down, but most always it takes longer. Once an engineer got caught in a blizzard, and it took him eighteen hours.

In the Boston studios the most interesting thing to me was the organ which Francis Cronin plays. It took a year to build the organ, and the 2900 pipes vary in length from the length of a pencil to sixteen feet. We saw the different kinds of microphones and record players and other interesting things in the studios.

When the war is over Frequency Modulation radios will be obtainable by everyone. I look forward to having one of these kinds of sets. I also hope to have another trip to a radio studio.

George E. Hotton

My Hobby

My favorite hobby is stamp collecting, and I spend a lot of my spare time doing this. I have 1867 stamps now, and by trading with other collectors I am able to add to this number. My favorite stamps are United States ones. The pictures on these tell the history of our country, and I

think nearly all the important events are noticed on these stamps. I am one of the many boys at F. T. S. who enjoy stamp collecting.

Paul Calloe



Pets—Eight of them

Our Assembly Program

On a recent Monday the Sophomores gave the program at assembly. It was different than anything we had done before, and for that reason the members of the class took much interest in it. The program had to do with our Social Problems class, and our teacher, Dr. Cook, outlined topics upon which we were to prepare a three minute talk. We drew our titles by lot, and wrote our talks and had them approved. Then we began memorizing them, or at least, learning the facts well enough so that we could state them clearly. We had a brief rehearsal during the day, and Louis A. Towne acted as the Chairman. When the time came for Assembly we were ready and prepared, and our talks were given. Of course some did better than others, but we all got valuable experience in speaking before a group.

Following our part of the program the School Band gave a short concert.

Frank N. Babick



Adams House

Thompson's Island Beacon

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We feel as close to this war as a civilian off the battle areas could possibly feel because of our own lads who are out there in considerable numbers. We absorb every fragment of war news and training events because of our boys. We hope for complete victory soon because only then will our great family be returned to us.

We often ponder the whys and wherefores of wars and especially of this one. It appears practically certain that we cannot expect victory this year nor next but the final outcome is unquestioned. Even the aggressors know they can only delay our success a short time while they continue their determined self-imposed destruction of peoples and materials.

Human stability and happiness rests on a recognition and balance of the three basic human elements, the physical, the mental and the spiritual. Whenever a nation or an individual ignores or neglects any one of the three fundamental parts of life a fall is just as certain as the tipping of a three-legged milk stool when one leg becomes loose or broken.

The tragedy of life is that people will not accept the known facts and follow these natural laws which come with our great heritage of rich resources.



Front Drive and Gardner Hall

Topics in Brief

Football continues to be the most popular sport, by far, of our fall season. The two leagues have played a series of good games, the competition being keen, and the interest high. The varsity played Cohasset High School on October 28, and lost 6-0. Arrangements were made so that the boys' parents and friends could be here for the game, and all agreed that it was a hard fought contest.

It was a our great pleasure to have Malcolm E. Cameron '19, present his excellent program of Magic and Fun, in our Assembly Hall on October 19. Mr. Cameron had a diversified program which held the attention of all, and his magical tricks and stunts gave us all an evening of real entertainment. We were happy to welcome Mrs. Cameron also, who had an important part in the program.

Mr. Cameron arranged to have Mr. Frank Madden come with him and take part in the fun of the evening. Mr. Madden, is a juggler, magician, ventriloquist and musician all in one, and his

contribution to the show was warmly received and appreciated.

Hallowe'en has become one of our real fun nights, and this year was no exception. Festivities began in our gymnasium at six o'clock, when a buffet supper was served. Following this, a series of games, stunts and novelties was enjoyed for two hours. Later, in our Assembly Hall an entertainment was given by thirty of the boys who were in costume, and whose skits, songs, and jokes helped make the Hallowe'en party a great success.

Our Sunday religious services are conducted by Mr. Donald Niles of Gordon College. Sunday School is held in the morning, and a Church service in the evening. Mr. Niles arranges to have some of the boys assist at each service and many have had this opportunity. Special music is provided by one of our young instrumentalists at each service. Textbooks especially prepared for the purpose are used for the Sunday school classes.

The Main Building was designed by Bulfinch and erected in 1833. It is used principally for administrative offices, assembly hall, and living quarters for some of the instructors.



Mr. Edward Rowe Snow, prominent Boston Harbor Historian, has visited the School three times recently. Each time he brought with him a group interested in learning more about the history of the harbor islands, and the work which the islands are performing today.

A number of our boys invariably join Mr. Snow's group, for they enjoy his informal lectures.



The Cattle Barn

Calendar 90 Years Ago, October 1854 As Kept by the Superintendent

6. The last monthly visit in the *Mayflower* for the season took place today. Present Moses Grant, Esq., and Mr. Tappan. Miss Warner from Ipswich came up; also Mr. Bates of Hingham with peaches and pears, barberries and cranberries. All the boys went on board the *Mayflower* and took a cruise up toward the Navy Yard and back to the Island with their friends.

9. Lumber came down for farmhouse.

20. Boys put on thick clothes, shoes, and footings.

23. Mr. Morrison went to Manchester, N. H.

My Favorite Pastime

One of my favorite pastimes is going on beach walks. Most of the boys like

them also, and Sunday is the most popular day. There are all kinds of interesting things to see and discover. Sometimes we find parts of wrecked boats, rafts, and bottles of all kinds of sizes and shapes. Once in a while we find sick sea gulls, sandpipers, or maybe a duck. We take them to the house and after a few days of care they are ready to fly away. I think hiking around the beach is a good pastime.

Howard E. Jennison

More News of the Men in Service

JOHN DUNN, '39, A. M. 3-c, is now stationed at San Diego, California, and is pleased to be back in the service, after suffering illness from a most severe and serious accident. He is quite well now, and very happy in his new work, although it is limited service.

FRANCIS A. CURTIN, '35, was, from September 1941 until February 1943, a member of the Merchant Marine, and made many trips to Glasgow, Scotland. In February 1943 he joined the U. S. Coast Guard and is a Pharmacist's Mate, 2nd Class. His home port is San Francisco.

CHARLES A. PECCE, '40, Som. 3-c, has been one of our recent correspondents. He writes that most of his time has been spent in distant lands. He includes some items of interest concerning his F. T. S. friends, including the fact that he was best man at the wedding of Robert W. MacWha, '40. MacWha, he adds, has taken part in many raids of islands held by our Pacific enemy. Winthrop Davidson '40, and Robert L. Pecce, '41, are at the same base as Hospital Apprentice Corpsmen. His letter concludes with greetings and best wishes to our football team.

We are preparing a photo collection of you graduates in the armed forces, and we'd like *your* picture, in uniform, when convenient.

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

LIEUT. LEONARD MARKLEY, '37, writes that he is now stationed in Nebraska, picking up a crew and expects to be overseas in a short time. He has logged 1500 flying hours in the past two years, and has been very busy. During this time he has been home but twice, and for very short periods. He was married early last spring to "one of the nicest girls in Arkansas". As soon as the war ends he will bring his wife to Boston and make a Yankee out of her. So far he says he has taught her to "whip up a good bake-bean and frankfurt dinner". He writes a happy, cheerful letter, and it is easy to see that married life agrees with him.

PVT. JAMES E. MCCARTHY, '41, is stationed at a Florida camp, and writes of his first impressions of army life. He had just finished gas tests, and says he thinks he has a record time for putting on the mask. He has his trombone with him and he and the other musicians in the group enjoy playing when their time permits.

LIEUT. HUDSON D. BRENNER, '37, is now stationed at an Alabama camp, having been transferred from an Indiana location. Lieut. Brenner is a member of a tank battalion.

PVT. ERNEST BURNS, JR. '42, is in the Marines, and since July has been stationed in Panama.

LIEUT. JAMES E. DOUGLAS, '32, is Navigator on a troop transport, and has made several trips to invasion centers.

He has been to each invasion area, and his mother writes to tell us that he had many experiences which he will never forget. He makes his home in San Francisco, his home port.

SGT. EDWARD L. VERY is overseas, and his address is in care of the New York postoffice.

PVT. EDGAR R. ALDRICH, '38, was recently awarded the Good Conduct Medal for exemplary behavior, efficiency and fidelity, at a large Air Service command in the European Theatre of Operations.

LIEUT. RUSSELL G. GARFIELD, '36, is at a new base since receiving his commission. He is now stationed in South Carolina, having been transferred from a Texas base. It was a long, hard struggle for him, but he is happy beyond words at winning his wings.

JAMES R. LANGTON, '36, has been for four years a member of the Marines, and was recently awarded the Presidential citation. He is a machine gunner, and took part in the historic battle of Guadalcanal. About a year ago he was returned to this country to recover from tropical diseases, but is now back in service, fully recovered.

JOHN R. MACDONALD, '35, and ELVIN C. BEAN, '36, visited the School recently, and had a grand time recalling some of their boyhood experiences. Both saw considerable action in the Pacific. They had met John A. Bailey, '35, about a month ago, and he is getting along fine in his duties with the Seabees.

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, President
Hyde Park, Mass.

HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer
Arlington, Mass.

RAYMOND THOMAS, '26, Vice-President
Thompson's Island

MERTON P. ELLIS, '97, Secretary
77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

ROBERT W. MITCHELL, '32, was a recent visitor. After graduating from F. T. S. he was selected as a member of Fabien Sevitky's famous youth orchestra, which played in the Metropolitan Theater, in Boston. Shortly after, he entered the printing industry, working in Norwood, Mass., Chicago, Illinois, and Walpole, Mass. In October, 1939, he married and has two children, Marilyn Ona, nearly four years old and a son, Richard Wyman, seven months. In April 1944 Mr. Mitchell left the printing business to do chemistry work with a Cambridge concern, which is his present employment.

LT. FREDERICK F. MUNICH, '20, on duty in India, is taking every opportunity to follow his hobby, photography. He writes that he has made many series of pictures of native life. Some of his subjects have been: women cutting millet with very crude types of sickles, donkeys, camels, and women carrying water jugs on their heads.

Two months ago he was made a 1st lieutenant. He has charge of the Procurement Group of a Signal Section.

JOHN H. BONSEY, 1-c, '40, is now stationed in New Guinea at a destroyer repair base. He says that it is hot enough *inside* the tents to bake bread, and that there is plenty of mud at the base. There they have everything from small flies to large snakes.

JOSEPH F. HARRINGTON, S-1c, '43 who is on duty aboard the U. S. S. Texas writes to thank us for the BEACON and other correspondence. He was glad to

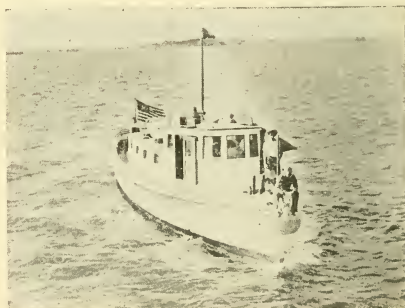
hear of the new engine in our School boat, and the other news of the School.

The following item appeared in the Rutland, Vt. "Herald", on November 1, 1944. Our congratulations to Lt. Col. FRANKLIN P. MILLER, '18.

"Lt. Col. Franklin P. Miller of Carmel, Cal., recently was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious services in North Africa and on the Fifth Army front in Italy.

"Miller, a native of Rutland, is a graduate of Brown University, class of 1925. He received an appointment to the U. S. Military academy from Vermont and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in field artillery in 1929.

"The commander of a 105-millimeter howitzer battalion in the 88th Infantry Division, he previously had received the Bronze Star and Oak Leaf cluster for outstanding service in the drive to Rome, and the Purple Heart for a wound. He received the silver leaves of a lieutenant colonel in 1942."



The School Boat Pilgrim III

THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 8 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. Dec. 1944

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View from Bowditch House Walk

Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day on Thompson's Island is always looked forward to eagerly, because of many reasons. The first, and most important, is the wonderful turkey dinner and next, two football games. Then there is a movie to complete the celebration of the day.

Here at F. T. S. we wondered whether or not we were going to have

turkey this year, for news was broadcast that there would be only a few to be had. But a few days before the holiday our turkeys came, and this news traveled about the school quickly.

The day dawned cold and cloudy, but it was good football weather. At 9:30 A. M. the football game between the Army and Navy began. These teams were made up of the younger boys, and was closely fought. Nearly everyone was

on the sidelines to cheer his favorite team.

At twelve o'clock we assembled in the dining room in Bowditch House. The tables were arranged so that two or three instructors and seven or eight boys sat together. Roast stuffed turkey, and everything that goes with this was on the heavily laden tables. As we stood quietly, Frank N. Babick read the Thanksgiving Proclamation by His Excellency, Leverett Saltonstall, Governor of the Commonwealth. Then we repeated the School Grace in unison, after which we began the feast. Of course everyone enjoyed the wonderful dinner, and we all were very thankful for it.

In the afternoon, at 2:30, the traditional football game between the older boys was played. During the day the weather had grown steadily better, and Harvard and Yale began a holiday game which everyone watched with interest.

In the evening there was a moving picture called "Konga". This was a story of a wild stallion who had been befriended by a rancher who raised horses. When Konga grew strong he ran off to join his wild comrades, but every so often he would return and meet his good friend. This was an animal story which all of the boys liked very much.

All of the boys had a happy time on Thanksgiving, and we thank those who made the day such a pleasant one for us.

Frank N. Babick

A Day at F. T. S.

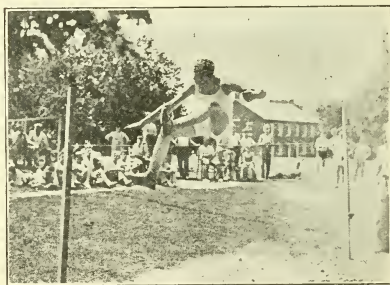
A day at our School is not like a day in any other school, and no two of us boys have exactly the same schedule. A day for me here begins at 6:15 when the monitor wakes me, along with the other boys in the dormitory. I have 50 minutes to get ready for breakfast, and get my room cleaned. At 7:00 I go to breakfast and directly after breakfast there is room

inspection. At 7:35 classes begin, and I am in the schoolroom until 11:30. At this time I change my school clothes and get ready for dinner at 12:00. After dinner I have until 1:15 for play, and then I go to the farm and work until 5:00. From then until 6:00 is play hour. At six o'clock we have supper, and after supper, until 9:00, is free time. We use this time for band rehearsals, study, playing games, listening to the radio, and so forth. At 9:00 we are in bed, and quiet, ready for a good night of sleep.

Kenneth W. Duquet

Sports at F.T.S.

The whole year round we have sports here at Thompson's Island. These are: Football, basketball, skating, volleyball, tennis, badminton, softball, baseball, track, coasting and many others.



Athletics are important at F. T. S.

Playing these athletic games gives one exercise, and if a boy plays steadily he is bound to become a good player. Football is a rough, tough game, full of excitement, and is liked by almost every boy. Basketball is a good sport too. It is full of excitement, and a good player has to be keen and swift. Baseball and softball are played all summer and we have two good playing areas for these popular games.

In minor games and sports hockey is very popular, and is played a lot if the weather is cold enough. Sometimes we go skating at night. Tennis is an individual game and we have tournaments in this sport, the winner getting a silver cup.

Every spring, on May 30, we have the Joyce Easter Meacham track meet and the high scorers are awarded a medal, while there are candy prizes for everyone who places in the different track events.

Volleyball and touch football are summertime sports which everyone very much enjoys.

All of these sports make a player feel happy and give good exercise. They are fun to play. I think every boy ought to play sports.

J. Sheridan Higgins

Beach Walks

The F. T. S. boys like to go on beach walks. All kinds of odd and interesting things are found which have been washed up on the shore. Then too, there are all kinds of ships going in and out of the harbor.

Quite often the boys will toss a bottle into the water and use it for a target. All kinds of stones are thrown at it, and if the water is rough it is sometimes hard to hit the bottle hard enough to break it. Skimming flat stones on the water is a lot of fun, too.

After stopping for awhile for such pleasures as these the boys are soon on their way singing, talking and picking up things that interest them. Some have their jack-knives and whittle as they hike along the beach of Thompson's Island.

Usually Sunday afternoon is the time that beach walks take place, and the boys think that a beach walk is a good way to spend a pleasant Sunday afternoon.

Richard L. Eastman

The Jester's Comments

—During a class in Geometry Henry Porter was about to begin a proof. He cleared his throat with mathematical precision, and commenced: "Now, we take any convenient compass". At once all pupils made "convenient compasses" inconvenient, with mathematical precision.

—The remarkable appearance of the hair of the boys in C Building is attributed to the phenomenal sale of a remarkable hair tonic by the master tonsorialist, Bruce Haeger. Five drops for a nickel isn't bad. Each morning the line forms on the right, and would-be patrons from other dormitories cannot be accommodated.

—The boys in Room 7, B Dormitory, aroused the ire of Monitor Leonard not long ago. In commenting upon this particular group it appears that Harold "Sonny" Kew has all he can do to keep the lads in hand, with Monitor Leonard striving for success also. It seems that this room is composed of laddies of diversified makeups. The strong silent man, William "Frank Sinatra" Warfield manages to duck trouble which may be on the way; the young Mr. Fitt, the lad with the wee piping voice seems to be the center of attraction, while "Sonny" Kew uses all his ability to talk his pals out of trouble. It may be added that his success is by no means slight.

—A Sophomore stood on the railroad track,

The train came rushing by

The railroad train got off the track,

And let the Sophomore by.

—The long awaited battle has taken place. Malcolm "One punch" Wiley and Lester "Knock out" Wade recently slugged it out in a four round bout with all the A Dormitory boys looking on. The result was a draw, with both contestants glad that the end had come. After a long rest a return bout will take place.

Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by

THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF EXCELLENT
CHARACTER SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.
TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

FRANK N. BABICK Editor

Vol. 48 No 8 December 1944

Subscription Price . . . One Dollar Per Year

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Continuously we hear from old friends and new that our school should talk more about what we are doing, the scope of work and high standards. This is undoubtedly true. Actually each year several thousand uninformed people do learn about our work but this is not enough. Sometime we should launch a big publicity campaign.

The magazine "The School Executive" recently contained an article about Oakland's (California) Public Schools Work-Study Plan and a condensed article was printed in the "Ediphone Educator." A paragraph from the latter states:

"In the spring of 1942 the Oakland Public Schools established a Work-study Plan, known as the Four-Four Program. Under this plan, boys and girls 16 years of age or older with parental approval may attend school for four hours each day. The essence of the plan lies in the recognition of potential education values which may result from work experience."

It seems that every time an educational organization adopts a change of program in line with human needs it is lauded as a new discovery and a great achievement. Of course every time modern educators recognize basic needs of American youth wide publicity should be given and the methods adopted generally.

As a matter of record our school started a work-study program as one of its main objectives in 1814, improved the plan by adding practical farming and marine training in 1833, inaugurated a school library in 1848, organized America's first boys' band in 1857, added boys' flower gardens in 1867, pioneered a printing department in 1881, began a form of student government in 1888, introduced Sloyd in 1891, (wood-working was started here long before this date).

Our school, for more than a century and a quarter, has been a pioneer in the

study and practical application of the needs of boys. The list of boys' life opportunities here is much longer than indicated in the above paragraph. Our friends know that every boy is carefully selected on a basis of excellence in character and with physical and mental normality. Our 4-4-4 program fills a boy's life with four hours of study, four hours of farm, shop, marine or maintenance experience and four hours of diversified and well organized play.

No child should be deprived of farm experience. Educators will eventually recognize this need and have farms in every public school system.

Topics in Brief

Thanksgiving was observed, as it is every year, with a fitting program commemorating the season. On the Sunday preceding the holiday our minister, Mr. Donald C. Niles, preached a Thanksgiving sermon. On the holiday the big event was, of course, the bountiful feast with roast turkey as the main dish. At dinner the inspiring proclamation written by our governor, Leverett Saltonstall, was read by the 1944-45 Shaw Scholar, Frank N. Babick. Two football games, one in the morning and another in the afternoon, gave all of the boys an opportunity to celebrate the day on the football field. In the evening a fine moving picture program concluded the observance of the Thanksgiving season. The real spirit of the day was everywhere evident, for most of our boys and instructors have loved ones fighting on the world battle fronts, and we are constantly thinking of and about our over 200 graduates who are fighting and dying so that we can continue to live the American way.

Football has been the most popular

of all the fall sports, and our program has been arranged so that all the boys had the maximum opportunity to play the game. There were two leagues, one for the older boys and another for the younger, and weekly, during the season scheduled games were played. Interest ran high, and all of the boys enjoyed the game. There was one outside contest, when our School team lost a close game to Cohasset High School 6-0.

We appreciate very much the assistance of the librarians of the School department of the Boston Public Library for selecting for us deposits of books which are used as a supplement to our School library. Many of the boys are avid readers, and every opportunity is given so that they may have suitable and worth-while books. Our own school library, and the excellent cooperation of the Boston public library makes this possible.

The "Portsmouth", one of the larger types of coal barges, slipped her mooring during a recent storm and drifted onto our north end beach. During the following days attempts were made to get the barge into deep water, and even with the assistance of eight powerful tugs this was not possible. Finally dredging barges from New York were called, and the "Portsmouth" was finally freed. The methods used were of great interest to the boys, and they followed the progress made day by day until the vessel was off the beach and again ready for her war-time service.

Armistice Day was celebrated as a holiday, and the boys had opportunity to do as they wished. Many worked on individual hobbies, such as stamp collections, woodworking and music. In the afternoon a group hiked around the beach. Football games helped make the day a happy one for all.

Mrs. Grace W. B. Foster, widow of former manager WALTER B. FOSTER, '78, died at her home in Hingham on Dec. 7. A graduate of Wellesley college, she taught school in Hingham and Somerville for 40 years.

The boys in C Dormitory were pleasantly surprised not long ago by being given a house party. It was a seasonal party, and the refreshments were in keeping with the season, being cider, cookies, and so forth.

At a meeting of the Admission Committee, held on November 21, eleven boys were accepted, and these new students came to the Island one week later, on November 27.

The interior of the cattle barn is being re-painted and minor repairs are being made. It is surely evident that the dairy, as a whole, is one of the showplaces of the island, and the boys who have the opportunity of working there certainly take a deep interest in their work.

A group of the boys had the opportunity of visiting the Yankee Network broadcasting studios on November 4, in Boston. The visit aroused much interest among the boys, for they were shown the modern methods of broadcasting, the principal features of frequency modulation reception were explained to them, and moving pictures were used to demonstrate the great advantages of this type of radio reception.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, November 1854

As Kept by the Superintendent

10. Received a very happy visit from Geo. B. Crane who left this school about eight years since to live with a farmer and has never been in the city since until the

present visit. His appearance is both creditable to himself and the family with whom he has lived.

24. The steamer "Ocean" from Bangor came in collision with the British steamer near Long Island. The "Ocean" took fire and drifted to Deer Island---Three lives lost.

Evening Activities

On five nights a week there is an activity scheduled for the boys at F. T. S. I will tell a little about each.

On Sunday night we have a Church service, conducted by Mr. Donald Niles, a student at the Gordon College of Theology. Mr. Niles is assisted by some of the boys, who announce hymns and play special music on their instruments.

On Monday evenings Assemblies are held. The classes take turns in giving short plays, skits or other entertainment. The Band plays two or three selections and Mr. Meacham makes announcements of importance.

On Tuesday evenings sports take a prominent place. During this season of the year the four teams in the Sears basketball league play their games.

On Friday evening our bandmaster, Lieut. Frank L. Warren comes to conduct a band rehearsal. This rehearsal takes two hours, and the boys get pieces prepared to play at the next Assembly.

On Saturday evening comes movies, to which the boys look forward with pleasure. The pictures are shown on the school 16mm sound projector, and are always good.

These activities are all scheduled for the nights specified, but often it is necessary to make changes. On holiday evenings we usually have an entertainment of some kind, and occasionally other events make it necessary to alter the weekly program

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

SGT. HILDRETH R. CROSBY, '26, is in the Infantry and is based at a South Carolina fort.

Pfc GEORGE W. HARRIS, '40, is expecting a medical discharge from the Marines. He is in a naval hospital in San Leandro, California. He has been in many of the encounters with our enemy in the Pacific area. He looks forward to visiting the School at the first opportunity.

PVT. EDWARD E. ANDREW '35, has completed the basic infantry training which is given each Marine recruit. This training was very strenuous, but worthwhile, and trains a man to take care of himself under almost any conditions. He trained at a camp in North Carolina.

DONALD W. LOWERY, '41, writes from a Naval Air Station in Florida, to thank us for sending the BEACON, and to tell us a little of his Navy life. He is looking forward to real active duty before the end of the year.

FRANK W. ELLIS, Ex-'47, recently became a member of the U. S. Coast Guard. He is doing his preliminary training at Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn, New York. He writes that life in the service bewilders him, but that after a while he will get accustomed to it.

A. ROBERT HALLBERG, Sm 2c, '40 writes an interesting letter to inform us of a most "significant event", that of his marriage on last September 2, to Anne Patricie Gartzdaffner of Hermosa Beach, California. Being a married man, he now maintains a home address, which he

invites all who wish to use. This address is 132 33rd Street, Hermosa Beach, California. Our best wishes are expressed. He thanks us for the Christmas gift sent from F. T. S. This was the one Christmas gifts most cherished above all, he adds.

WILLIAM F. ETHERIDGE, '42, has received an honorable discharge from the U. S. A. Air Force. He has spent some time in the West Roxbury Hospital, and just recently was transferred to the John Adams Hospital, Chelsea. Through the recently enacted privileges which are accorded discharged servicemen, this graduate is attending the New England Conservatory of Music, taking a standard four year course. He closes his letter with these words: "I sure miss the old Farm School, and will never forget my days there."

We are happy to announce the marriage of Sergeant Lewis C. Goodwin, '41, to Mary Eleanor Schavone, on Wednesday May 24, 1944. With this rather belated announcement goes our best wishes for the happy couple. Sergeant Goodwin, who has been stationed for sometime outside the continental United States, has been returned to this area, and is on duty at a fort near Boston.

All of us at Thompson's Island were pleasantly surprised to receive, during Thanksgiving season, a gorgeous bouquet of flowers, the gift of CLYDE W. ALBEE, Class of 1933, who arranged to have this gift delivered to us. He is on duty with the Seabees at a Pacific outpost. We certainly appreciate his thoughtfulness. The flowers graced a different table in our dining room on successive days, and we all enjoyed them.

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77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
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Hyde Park, Mass.

We print below, in part, a letter from ROBERT J. ENGLISH, '38, MM 3c, which will interest our readers.

"Dear Mr. Meacham:

"Your last news of me was when I was in St. Louis, but I will go back a little further, so that you may understand why a sailor is located in the middle of the United States.

"A year ago, when I was attached to a destroyer, I happened to get a little too near the thick of things in the invasion of Sicily and Italy. As a result, I spent the months of August and September in the Naval Hospital at Asheville, North Carolina. After leaving the hospital the Navy treated me very well and placed me at a shore station until I was completely recovered from my aches and pains.

"In October 1943 I was sent to a St. Louis plant, as an instructor to other Navy personnel in the operation and maintenance of Reciprocating Steam Engines, which were being built there.

"While in St. Louis, I was married. My wife is a native of Arkansas, and although she is a Rebel, and I'm a Yankee, and we fight the Civil War between us, we are a perfectly happy couple. Our marriage was on November 20, 1943.

"Towards the end of December, 1943, the work in St. Louis was finished, and I was transferred to Boothbay Harbor, Maine. Here a new type of vessel was being built, and I was to watch the construction, as I would have charge of the engine room upon completion.

"I am glad to receive the BEACON monthly, and am much interested in all the news in the paper. Some of my classmates have been in the service for some

time. As for myself, I began my fifth year on November 7.

"I will close now, hoping that this finds the good old F. T. S. going as strong as ever. I wish I could be there right now! I will never forget the six happy and industrious years I spent there. Thank you for the best high school education that could be received anywhere.

Sincerely yours,
Robert J. English

The death of GEORGE N. PERRY, '85, one of the oldest alumni, died at his home in Rye, N. H., on June 27, in his 77th year. He came to the school in 1873, and in 1882 a place of employment was found for him with Mr. J. J. Goss in Rye, N. H., and there he spent his life. For 33 years he was in the provision business, and retired with a competency. He was greatly interested in the Christian Church, across the street from his home, and had been a generous supporter of it. When the band a few years ago was returning from the tournament at Lewiston, Me., and stopped over at Portsmouth for a broadcast, Mr. Perry was on hand with his wife, who survives.

Sympathy is expressed for FRED P. THAYER, '03 of Wollaston in the death of his wife, who died after a year's illness on Nov. 6. Mr. Thayer is a linotype operator with the Boston Globe. They had been married 25 years.

1st LIEUT. BERNARD R. MORRILL, '20, was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal. His home address is 535 Monument Avenue, Lowell, Mass.



THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

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Christmas at F.T.S.

The holiday season at the School was, of course, a great pleasure and joy for all. It began early in the month, when each of the boys went to town for a day to make Christmas purchases of gifts and cards.



A Chapel Christmas-time Setting

During the latter part of November full rehearsals for our annual Christmas Concert were begun. This year a pageant play, "Christmas is a Miracle", by Joyce Vernon Drake, was given. This is a tender, heart-warming story of a crippled lad, and the visions he sees in an old church, deserted except for the loving care given it by its former sexton. Fourteen boys, and a choir of ten voices made up the cast. The performance was truly splendid, and a great credit to all who had a part in it.

On Christmas Eve all of the boys, with many instructors, gathered in Chapel

to sing the old familiar Christmas songs. All the grand carols were enjoyed, after which Dickens' "Christmas Carol" was played from transcription records.

In the morning each boy found a stocking filled with candy, toys, and other useful gifts on his bed. Of course everyone had a grand time with the stockings. But the big event was yet to come.

The arrival of Santa Claus was set for shortly after 9:00 A. M., and sure enough the PILGRIM III pulled into the dock at the appointed time. Santa was comfortably seated in an old-fashioned sleigh, and with the boys supplying the motive power, Santa was transported to the Main Building. It was not long before the huge piles of gifts were being distributed by Santa and a group of assistants. Everyone was interested in Santa's identity, and he proved to be Robert P. Donnelly, '43, on vacation from Vermont Academy, where he is a Senior.

In the afternoon we had a professional entertainment, the gift of Mrs. Arthur Adams, wife of our former President, Mr. Arthur Adams. The program consisted largely of musical selections and readings, and was very much enjoyed. All of us appreciate very much the kindness of Mrs. Adams, in providing this fine entertainment.

The holiday activities were concluded by a moving picture show. The picture, one of the comedies of the "Blondie" series, gave just the right ending to a perfect day.

Our Christmas Party

Every year each of the four dormitories has a Christmas party, which the dormitory and a few invited guests attend. I live in Dormitory C, and about a week before Christmas the monitors and dormitory supervisor began preparing for a Christmas Eve party for the boys in our dormitory. We had a meeting and we decided just what we wanted for our party.

A few days later each of us drew, by lot, the name of one of the boys living in the dormitory. Each bought a joke gift

for the boy whose name he drew, and composed a verse which, it was hoped, would be considered funny.

When Christmas Eve finally arrived we gathered in the dormitory sitting room, where Harold Lowery, one of the monitors, acted as Santa Claus. As he gave out the presents each of us was much interested in them. Some gifts were funny. And some were not. Among the presents received were baby rattles, powder puffs, and pig banks. The name of the giver of each present was kept secret, which, in some cases, was a good thing.

After the presents were given out, and everybody had a good laugh over some of them, we went to the recreation room in the basement where refreshments were served. Cider, ice cream and cake were



A Dormitory Sitting Room at Christmas

included and gave the right finish to a good party.

The dormitory was nicely decorated for the party, and I am sure that all of the boys in Dormitory C really enjoyed their Christmas Eve party.

Bruce E. Haeger

Our Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert was given in the School Chapel on Sunday evening, December 19, and consisted of a pageant play called "Christmas is a Miracle". Those in the play rehearsed faithfully for more than three weeks and all agreed that the performance was most successful.

The program and cast of characters was as follows:

PROGRAM

HYMN "Joy to the World" Congregation

INVOCATION Mr. Niles

READING of "The Story of the Play"

Darwin C. Baird

THE PLAY "Christmas is a Miracle"

HYMN "The First Noel"

HYMN "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Congregation

BENEDICTION Mr. Niles

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

Part I

Uncle Jed the old caretaker,

Frank N. Babick

Nickie, a crippled boy, George H. Bruce

Mary, Richard G. Morrill

Golden Angel, Robert B. Morrill

Four Little Angels, Lester C. Wade

Lesle T. Gilmore Malcolm C. Willey

Burleigh M. Pratt

Part II

Jediah, an old shepherd

Frank N. Babick

Jerod, a young shepherd

Darwin C. Baird

Three shepherd lads George A. Robie

Louis A. Towne Chester C. McLeod

CHOIR

Paul W. Horton Harold W. Kew, Jr.

John S. Higgins William T. Warfield

Robert A. Patterson George S. Keyes

David P. Finnegan Richard L. Eastman

Richard E. McPhee William H. Manson

I'm sure that all who took part in the Christmas Concert enjoyed it, and were glad of the chance to be in such a beautiful pageant play.

Frank N. Babick

Honor Roll—Fall Term

Sophomore Class

Frank N. Babick, 91

William O. Robbins, 90

Freshman Class

Leslie L. Goddard, 85.5

Richard E. Duquet, 82.5

Eighth Grade

Wiley L. Bishop, 86.25

Robert L. Burton, 85.5

Seventh Grade

David P. Finnegan, 79.5

Burleigh M. Pratt, 79.3

Sixth Grade

Malcolm C. Wiley, 88

Robert E. Lucien, 83.66

Twenty-two of the boys received a mark of 90 or over in classroom effort. They were:

Sophomore Class

Frank N. Babick Darwin C. Baird

George H. Bruce Chester C. McLeod

William O. Robbins Louis A. Towne

Freshman Class

Leslie L. Goddard William T. Warfield

Eighth Grade

Wiley L. Bishop Paul D. Keith

Robert A. Patterson

Seventh Grade

David P. Finnegan Donald G. Jonah

Joseph H. Lucey William H. Manson

Burleigh M. Pratt Robert D. Strachan

Sixth Grade

George E. Hotton George S. Keyes

Robert E. Lucien Edwin L. Melvin

Malcolm C. Wiley

Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by

THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF EXCELLENT
CHARACTER SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.
TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

FRANK N. BABICK - - - - - Editor

Vol. 48 No 9 January 1945

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One Federal Street, Boston 6

On the home front during the year 1944 we have been carrying on, striving to keep our part of the job up to as near the pre-war standards as possible, consistent with the war effort.

We know our boys out there, 225 strong, want us to do our work and give the present "batch" of youngsters as much of the same sort of happy life and preparation for the more trying tasks that come to each one later as you older lads had here as youngsters.

We are, perhaps, more deeply conscious of this tragic period than are most American civilians because we are closely in touch with so many of our own who are fighting for the things we hold dear.

We have constant inspiration from you fellows out there. Your letters and your occasional visits when on leave spur us to renewed efforts. We are saddened by the knowledge that ten of our great family will not physically greet us again on Thompson's Island.

At Christmas we enacted the same sort of program of events as is dear to the memory of every Farm School boy. Even the good old flying Santa Claus (Edward Rowe Snow) dropped a package from aloft. This time in a stiff south wind, he missed the mark. The bundle drifted out to sea but through the kindness of some unknown friend we received it a week later by mail. We couldn't put quite the same joy into it that was present in former years but we knew that scattered all over the World thoughts would be timing to the minute the various events taking place here. This, more than anything else, caused us to observe every tradition of your school.

Our hopes are in the New Year and future years. We know there is plenty of fight still left in the enemy forces but surely they cannot continue very much

longer in their determination to wreck a decent way of life. It would be most presuming for us at home to venture a guess as to the date of final victory but we do not see how the Germans can hold out more than a few months longer. No doubt the Japs will hang on some time beyond the Nazi collapse.

We shall be completely happy only when this thing is all over and you fellows, our boys, in the armed forces are all back here—home once again—for good.

Topics in Brief

It has been the great pleasure of the School, its student body, faculty and graduates to send to each of our men in the armed forces a Christmas package. Acknowledgements of the receipt of the packages have been numerous, and are coming in the mail regularly. These packages are received with the warmest of appreciation by our service men, and we at the School are tremendously happy that we had the privilege of preparing and mailing this Christmas gift.

The month of December is a jolly one for the boys at our School. Of all months in the year, it is probably remembered with the greatest joy, for a Christmas at F.T.S. is an experience which can never be forgotten. This year we had our customary fine Christmas Concert, dormitory parties, Christmas Eve observance and then the holiday itself. All the activities, from the solemn and beautiful Christmas pageant, "Christmas is a Miracle" to the jollity and fun of Santa's annual sleigh ride Christmas morning, proceeded according to plan and gave our boys as fine a Christmas as we have ever experienced.

We appreciate very much the kindness and thoughtfulness of our hosts of friends in sending us greetings at Christmas. This complete issue would not be large enough to include the gracious thoughts and sentiments which our School received, but the continued expressions of interest in our work is indeed appreciated. It was our good fortune to receive stacks of letters and cards;—yes, even a visit from the "Flying Santa Claus" himself. We are surely blessed with a great, great number of kind friends, all vitally interested in our work.

Another hobby has been added to the list of activities for our present F. T. S. boys. One of our staff, who herself is an expert knitter, wished some of our boys to have the joy and satisfaction of this work. She interested a number of our younger boys in knitting, and at present many scarfs and woolen hats are on the way to completion. To the uninitiated, knitting appears to be quite an art, and if present interest continues, the art will be mastered by a good percentage of our boys.

We received a visit from Ralph Talbot of the Class of 1936, during the month. He is a member of the Seabees, and was in the contingents which took part in the battle of the Aleutians. He gave us a good picture of Attu; its climate, geography, and military importance. Experiences which he personally saw, or had a hand in, were very interesting and appreciated by the boys. He had a set of photographs taken in that desolate region, which gave us an idea of the tremendous difficulties which beset our men in their successful battles against the Jap enemy.

The boys enjoyed a period of vacation from December 22 until January 2, which was the interval between the Fall and Winter terms of school. Many of the boys, whose excellent conduct and effort warranted, spent much of this time with their parents. Those who remained at the Island had a pleasant, happy vacation period, for snow and ice made possible winter sports, always the delight of our boys. Everyone enjoyed this vacation from school, for classes had been in continuous session since September 5.

Among the interesting projects which our boys have made, and are making, in our sloyd room, is that of napkin holders. Ingenious is the word to describe the many sizes and shapes of these most useful articles, and not only have the boys made them for their own use here, but many have been made for those at home. Finished in appropriate colors, they make any dining room table seem a little brighter, and, needless to say, the boys derive much pleasure from this type of hobby work.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, December 1854

As Kept by the Superintendent

14. Mr. Grant, J. I. Bowditch and S. G. DeBlois visited the institution and examined the farm house which is nearly completed.

25. A good dinner was provided for the boys and they were allowed to amuse themselves all day.

31. In reviewing the occurrences of the past year, we cannot be unmindful of the blessings we have received from a kind and protecting Providence who has prospered our efforts, shielded our lives and protected the members of this school from disease. At the beginning of the year this school consisted of eighty-nine boys. The present number is ninety-six.

Seven are under seven years of age; seven are between fourteen and fifteen; and one is fifteen years old. Thirty-three have both parents living; fourteen have a father; thirty-eight a mother.

The Shaw and Temple Prizes

Every six months the boys who achieve the highest standing in deportment and effort are awarded a Shaw prize. This is a cash award, formerly given by Manager Francis Shaw, and continued through a legacy left by him for this purpose.

The next five boys in standing are presented with a book, and these prizes are known as the Temple Consolation prizes. They were first given by Manager Thomas F. Temple, and continued after his death by another member of the Board of Managers, Mr. N. Penrose Hallowell, in memory of Mr. Temple. Honorable mention is recorded for the next five boys in standing. Those who received these prizes for the past six months were:

Shaw Prizes

- 1st Frank N. Babick
- 2nd Louis A. Towne, Jr.
- 3rd Stephen J. Zevitas
- 4th John S. Higgins
- 5th Harold W. Kew
- 6th Gerard W. Harrington
- 7th George H. Bruce, Jr.
- 8th Robert B. Morrill
- 9th Harold D. Lowery, Jr.
- 10th Chester C. McLeod, Jr.

Temple Consolation Prizes

- 11th Bertil R. Holmberg
- 12th Henry J. Porter
- 13th Howard E. Jennison
- 14th Albert R. Erickson, Jr.
- 15th William H. Manson

Honorable Mention

- 16th Berton E. Cadorath
- 17th Robert L. Burton
- 18th Richard G. Morrill
- 19th Robert G. Crease
- 20th John E. Keller

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

T-5 FRANK J. DOW, '30, writes from "Somewhere in Holland", thanking us for a recent letter and bringing us up to-date on his service career. He graduated from Fort Benning as a paratrooper on last March 18. He then attended riggers school for five weeks, and was transferred to Advanced Combat Artillery. Soon he was on his way overseas. He has been in England, France, Belgium and Holland. He likes Belgium and Holland. The people in those countries have beautiful cities and roads. They seem to have plenty of money, and are very well dressed.

Miss Elizabeth Louise Ireland became the bride of CORP. GEORGE F. CONNORS, '39, at a ceremony performed at the Base Chapel, Dow Field, Bangor, Maine on last June tenth. Mrs. Connors is a graduate of Gates Business School, Augusta, Maine, and is employed in an office at the Field. CORP. CONNORS has been in the service for four years, and during the past two years he has been stationed at Dow Field. The couple are at home at 62 Cumberland Street, Bangor, Maine.

RALPH E. W. PACE, Ex-'47, is in the U. S. Navy, and writes from somewhere in the Pacific area thanking us for sending recent copies of the BEACON. Like all of our servicemen, he expresses pleasure and satisfaction for "the letter from home" as the school paper is so aptly called.

ARTHUR L. THIBODEAU, S 1-c, has written a splendid letter from aboard ship in the Pacific area. He states that the

two years he spent on Thompson's Island will never be forgotten, and that he appreciates everything that was done for him.

WILLIS M. SMITH, '22, H. A. 2-c, has written to tell us something of his duties as a Hospital Apprentice. During the middle of December he expected to sail for a Pacific Island, and there to care for the sick and wounded and to get them back to the U. S. A. as soon as possible. There is great satisfaction in helping a buddy and starting him on the road to recovery. The wounded really appreciate the Hospital Corps, and this makes the work give real satisfaction. He goes on to say that the Hospital Corps is also equipped to battle the enemy, and will give the Japs plenty more than they ask for.

TECH. 5 HAROLD B. DELORIE, '35, is on duty overseas, and he sent us a card telling of his arrival. He is in the European theater of war.

It is now LIEUT. LEANDER E. DOREY, '23, for on October 31 this graduate was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. Congratulations! This is a long deserved recognition of faithful service. Lieut. Dorey did a most commendable job on Guadalcanal, as a Marine radio operator, and is now stationed in California.

WILLIAM C. MORSE, '40, S 3-c has been in the Pacific area for two years, and expects to leave a Pacific base for the continental United States very soon. He wrote that a glimpse of the homeland will be a great thrill, and we can well imagine his feelings.

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, President
Hyde Park, Mass.

HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer
Arlington, Mass.

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Thompson's Island

MERTON P. ELLIS, '97, Secretary
77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON

G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

WILLIAM W. FISH, Cox, '34, sends an interesting letter which we print below:
"Dear Mr. Meacham:

"It's time I wrote another letter. First of all, I hope you and your family are well and everything at the School going well.

"I've been receiving the BEACONS and enjoying each very much. They surely bring back fond memories.

"I'm fine and dandy, and all of us are hard at work. Although the going has been slow at times it has paid dividends. During the past few weeks we have been giving the Japs a real going over. You'll find that October 25 will go down in history as a great day for the U. S. Navy. I'm proud to have had a part in it. There is still a lot to do, but we know victory is ours.

"It is interesting to note our gains during the past few months. Our ship has had a part in all of the invasions and engagements since July. If we continue at the same pace we'll end the war in a reasonable time.

"I had the experience of crossing the equator on one of our trips. I am now a shellback. We had some initiations and quite a bit of fun out it.

"The weather is surely hot and uncomfortable at times. I'd enjoy some of New England's fall weather!

"I'm looking forward to receiving more BEACONS and thus keep in touch with the school. I hope you had a successful summer farm season. Cutting corn and digging potatoes would be pleasant jobs right now.

"For now I'll sign off. Give my regards to Mrs. Meacham and the instructors that I know."

As ever,
WILLIAM W. FISH

GEORGE I. LEIGHTON, '04, Musician first class in the U. S. Navy, has been in the service for 24 years, and, because of medical reasons has been transferred to limited service within the continental United States. We wish him good luck in getting reestablished, and also congratulate him for a long period of Naval service to our Country.

WILLIAM C. BURNS, '37, AMM 3-c, writes from an American Naval Base in England to tell us of the wonderful Turkey dinner the men at his base enjoyed on Thanksgiving Day. He also states that he has discovered that HAROLD B. DELORIE, '35, is stationed not far from him, and that he is arranging to meet him at the first opportunity. He has been to school studying a special instrument, and hopes to have a promotion in rate before long.

Pfc BENJAMIN F. MIDDLETON, '32, has been at a Louisiana camp completing training which he believes is the last before he is on his way for overseas duty.

Pfc DONALD F. GRISWOLD, Ex '41, U.S. Marines Corps, has written that he may be back in the States in April, after having been on duty in the far Pacific. We expect that he is stationed on Guam.

THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 10 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. Feb. 1945

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874



Dormitory "A" of the Hayden Group

In 1941 a group of three dormitories was constructed, largely through funds provided for by the Charles Hayden Foundation. Modern in every detail, these buildings give our boys living accommodations unequalled in any private school. Visitors marvel at the thought and care which was given in the design and plans of the dormitories, even to the inclusion of an excellent darkroom for photographic

work, a popular hobby with our boys.

Each of these dormitories house 26 boys, there being four boys in some rooms, and two in others. Furniture and other appointments of the rooms are all that one could wish for.

Recreational facilities are provided for by two large game rooms, and a comfortable sitting room in each of the dormitories.

Basketball at F. T. S.

Probably no sport has more adherents at F. T. S. than does basketball, and here on Thompson's Island the boys have unequalled opportunity for taking part in this youngest of all the major sports of the nation.

Trustee Philip S. Sears, in 1916, began awarding to the championship team in a four team league a silver shield, and to the outstanding player in each position an athletic trophy. This annual award has been continued throughout the years. The league, which competes for this shield and trophies, is made up of the older, more experienced boys in the school, and aptly called the Sears League.

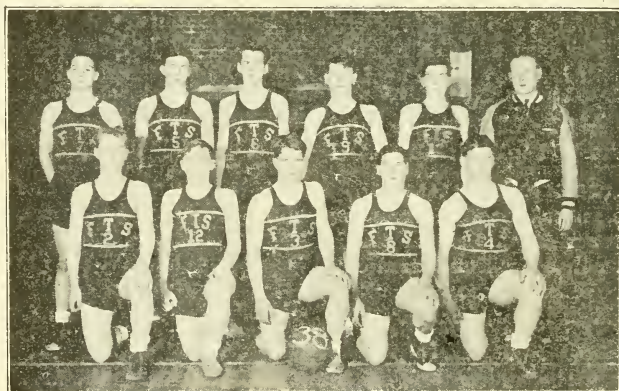
The other boys are grouped into a junior league, which chooses the names of favorite nuts for its team. Thus the Beechnuts, Walnuts, Coconuts and such teams to the number of five or more comprise this league.

At the conclusion of the season's play

the championship group has its name engraved upon a perpetual silver cup. Although played by younger boys, the games which this league play are full of interest and well worth watching.

The Varsity plays other high school, church, and boys' club teams. Year after year the F. T. S. team makes a good record for itself, and in some years we have had practically unbeatable quintets. To be a member of the varsity is the fond dream of every player in the two intramural leagues. The members of the varsity who played in the last game (Trinity Church 42; F. T. S. 31) were: Darwin C. Baird, Louis A. Towne, Richard E. Duquet, Frank N. Babick, Henry J. Porter, Chester C. McLeod and Edward W. Finn.

Our boys have one great advantage as far as this sport is concerned. The gymnasium is located nearby the dormitories and is always accessible for use. Thus the boys may practice the sport at any time



Annually, our School team makes a good record in Basketball. This is a typical Varsity squad. All of these "boys" are now carrying the ball for our Country, and one has scored the Greatest Goal of All.

convenient to them.

Winter does mean snow and ice,—skating, coasting, tobogganing and snow-ball battles,—but it also means basketball, for a winter on Thompson's Island without the competition in this grand sport would be almost impossible to contemplate.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, January 1854

As kept by the Superintendent

5. Nathan A. Clapp admitted.

7. A discourse was read to the boys by the teacher.

8. Mr. Morse moved into the new farm house. Mr. Collins came to see his three sons. Mr. Wilson, carpenter, came to make repairs on the roof and about the house.

12. Repaired the cooking range.

Office Boy at F. T. S.

When I first came here in September 1944 I worked in the Sewing Room for one month. Then I worked in the Dining Room for two months. Now I work



Tobogganing is favorite recreation

in the office and I have been in the office for two months.

As office boy I carry messages and packages to the different departments. Often I go to the stock room and fill orders for supplies, and deliver them. I help get the BEACON ready to mail and my instructors ask me to do many important tasks. My regular time on duty is from two o'clock until supper time each afternoon.

George E. Hotton



Winter's Big Three—Boys, their dog, and snow fort

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FRANK N. BABICK - - - - - *Editor*
 BRUCE E. HAEGER - - - - - *Assoc. Editor*

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One more important step in the forward progress of the affairs of the School was taken at the annual meeting of the Corporation January thirtieth. The name of the governing body was changed from Board of Managers to Board of Trustees.

Doubtless there will be some who will say that the title "Managers" has been used since the inception of the School in 1814 and that it is too bad to be so hasty with a change.

We are convinced, however, that ninety per cent of our friends will agree that the implication of "Board of Trustees" is much more in line with a true conception of our organization and our work than the outmoded former appellation.

A second important change was made in the By-Laws of the Corporation in the manner of election of Board members. Formerly the term of office of every Board member was one year, all going out of office at once. Now the Trustees are elected for three-year periods, one third being elected each year. The officers of the Board of Trustees are elected annually.

Several other changes were made in the By-Laws, bringing comparatively minor points up to modern day procedures.

In this war-time period major improvement of facilities and operational methods are out of order but we need not stop thinking and planning and making such major and minor improvements as are possible.

Topics in Brief

We have had plenty of ice and snow during the winter, and there has been unlimited opportunity for all kinds of winter sports. The tennis court made an ideal skating rink, and the boys enjoyed skating there, and many a pleasant evening has been spent on this rink. An excellent toboggan chute was constructed, beginning near the playground and extending to the east beach, and the toboggans were busy every available moment. Coasting on the avenue was greatly enjoyed also. Winter at F. T. S. , when there is plenty of snow, ice and cold weather is certainly a healthy, happy season for our boys.

The Sears basketball competition has been of unusual interest this year. Neither of the four teams has won or lost decisively, and enthusiasm for the sport runs high. This league plays each Tuesday and includes the older boys in the school. The

younger boys are grouped in five teams and comprise the "Nut" League, and these teams play on Saturdays. The younger boys are having a very interesting schedule of games, each contest being hard fought and close scores the rule. The Varsity has played several games with outside teams and the schedule for this team will not be completed until late in March.

The Scout Troop has had some profitable meetings lately, and such is the interest in the troop that membership continues to run above that of other troops in the Boston Council. As a strong factor for good citizenship, Scouting is recognized throughout the nation, and every effort is made here to make Scouting available to our boys, especially the younger boys.

The Editor acknowledges with thanks a letter from Will Frank Davis, who graduated in 1879. Mr. Davis commented upon the BEACON and certain



Hockey—A Popular Winter Sport

articles in it, which brought back to him memories of days on Thompson's Island nearly seventy years ago.

Mr. Davis is well known to all the graduates of the School, as he has been a frequent visitor and has taken a vital, active part in Alumni happenings.

The graduates, and all of us who know Mr. Davis tend to him congratulations on his sixtieth wedding anniversary, which he recently observed.

Two years ago Mr. Davis became associated with the "Hartsdale Times" and his address is 16 Clubway, Hartsdale, New York. Previously he lived in Chelsea, Mass. He has been engaged in the printing and publishing business for many years.

The appreciative acknowledgments from our servicemen for the Christmas package sent them have pleased us very much. We wish to add to the list of those who helped finance this package the name of our Bandmaster, Lt. Frank L. Warren, who was most anxious to have a part in this project.

Our boys in the armed services will be glad to know that Mrs. Edward E. Davis, wife of the late Edward E. Davis, Class of 1881, and sister of the late John E. Gould, '81 wished to have a part in the sending of the Christmas packages. To this end she sent a contribution. She also renewed her subscription to the BEACON, and enclosed a gift to the Band Fund.

We are all most grateful to Mrs. Davis for her contribution, but in her letter was a statement which makes us all realize how much F. T. S. means to our fine, loyal alumni, and their families. She writes that her husband and brother loved the School and its teachings, which they received here nearly three-quarters of a century ago, and tells of the great pride these men had in their Alma Mater.

A Letter

Middlebush, New Jersey
January 24, 1945

Dear Mr. Meacham:

"January 26th will mark the 62nd anniversary of our entrance to the Best School in the World, and the BEACON is our only contact with that school.

"We enjoy every article written by the boys, and also the Editorials written by yourself.

"Every issue tells of progress; progress that shows good management and careful planning. And the success of the graduates points even more emphatically to the wisdom and integrity of those who have trained them.

"We were extremely sorry to read of the death of Governor Saltonstall's son; we were pleased by his election to the U. S. Senate and wish that it might have been to the office of President of the United States.

"Kindly pay our respects to Mrs. Meacham, and express to her our hope that you will both live many years to carry on the wonderful work you are doing, and which God has so abundantly blessed.

Sincerely yours,
Charles W. Hafley, '88
Frederic R. Hafley, '88"

PFC EDGAR R. ALDRICH, '38, has been stationed in England for over a year and a half and writes that he is getting used to the English way of doing things, even to the extent of having a cup of tea upon awakening each morning. Like the average American fighting man, he has the happy faculty of being able to see the brighter side of life.

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

The following letter speaks for itself. It was written by DOUGLAS M. BASHAW, '40, RM2C, U. S. Navy.

December 29, 1944

"Dear Folks:

"Our lookout forward just saw a couple of reindeer romping through the sky northward, but we are hoping that they are B-29's on their way to deliver a few late Christmas presents to the Japs in Tokyo's front yard. Hope that there is plenty of .50 caliber tinsel and 1000 pound ornament for Tojo's Christmas tree.

"Well, folks, plenty happened this Christmas. The swell home cooking was missed, and the chance to give presents, but we tried to make up for it by kicking Tojo in the pants twice. Let me give you an eye witness account of why we didn't have time to sing carols.

"You know, the army boys have been walloping Tokyo with their B-29's. They've made it pretty hot for the Nips. Well, the Japs have an island a few hundred miles from Tokyo that needed some attention by our Navy. Our idea of a Christmas present was a bombardment of that island that the Japs would remember for several yuletides. Our job was to discourage them.

"Well, folks, we really worked them over. We first cruised to the island the day before Christmas while you were laying the presents around the tree. We had cruisers and destroyers. The army worked with us on the show and their B-24 bombers pasted the Japs plenty before we moved in. Some P-38's also went in and put the Japs in their fox

holes. The idea was to keep the Japs on the ground so they couldn't attack us. Those P-38's did a swell job.

"Our targets were coastal guns, fuel dumps, buildings, ships, planes, -anything with the Jap red circle on it. We followed the navigator's track around the island and pumped our big guns into their gun positions. We lobbed over plenty of five inch stuff too. Folks it was really something.

"The noise was terrific. Powder fumes drifted back after every salvo and over a loud speaker the voice of our plane spotter came in, telling us the results of our fire a few seconds after each salvo. From then on, he would tell us the results and give us corrections.

"We plugged at them for over an hour. We started some fires and shook them plenty. We also did some counter-battery fire; that is we fired back at shore batteries that revealed themselves by shooting at us. It was better than a turkey shoot, folks, and we left a lot of Christmas Eve headaches for the Japs on the island that day.

"Two of our destroyers chased a Jap destroyer 85 miles when she tried to escape. They caught the Jap and sunk her with shellfire. We also exploded a large landing ship. The captain of our destroyer and three men were wounded during the battle and our Admiral awarded them the Purple Heart. They did a bang-up job, and they earned it.

"Well, folks, we gave the Japs on that island their second present right after Christmas, with trimmings. During that bombardment we fired a Jap escort gun boat and another large landing ship. The gun boat blew up, and the ammunition in the other ship was still exploding when we went over the horizon.

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, President
Hyde Park, Mass.
HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer
Arlington, Mass.

RAYMOND THOMAS, '26, Vice-President
Thompson's Island

MERTON P. ELLIS, '97, Secretary
77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

"We raked their air fields with five inch fire and poured in plenty of the big stuff, while our spotter kept saying, 'Right on, no change, no change,' which meant we were hitting the target. We worked over boats, buildings and gun emplacements. In Navy language folks, it was 4.0, perfect.

"We were all pretty tired when we pulled away from the island the second time, but I think everybody felt that we had some of the Christmas spirit, and when the Admiral's 'Well done' went up, it gave us a good feeling. After all, Christmas is a time to give people presents, and our present to you was this wallop we gave the Japs.

"It made me feel pretty good, folks.

As ever,

DOUGLAS M. BASHAW, '40"

CAPT. WARREN W. FABYAN, our former agricultural teacher, has written from New Caledonia where he is glad to say he can "take it easy" for a day or two. He sent holiday greetings to us, and inquired for many of his former co-workers.

SGT. FREDERICK H. WHITE, '35, is stationed at a New Jersey air corpssupply base, and we were pleased to hear from him recently. He has been in the service for over three years and was schooled as an airplane mechanic, afterwards being transferred to the technical supplies department. He was married in April, 1942, and the couple has had the good fortune of being together since that time. He states that he is busy with his work, and has not been overseas as yet, but his "immunity can't last forever."

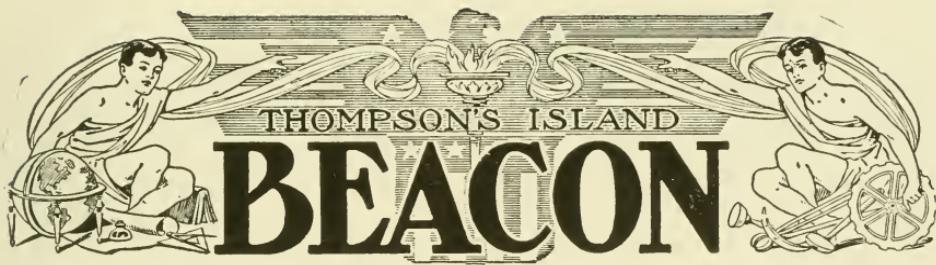
SGT. WESTON O. PAGE, '38, has sent us the joyful news that after 27 months in the Aleutians he has been notified that he would be returned to the States in the near future. He is thrilled at the hope of visiting his home and friends and we can understand a little of his great joy. Naturally he will want to visit his Alma Mater, and we are looking forward to his visit. He hasn't had a taste of fresh milk for 27 months, and he can make up for lost time on his visit here. We'll have rich, golden, Guernsey milk fresh from our dairy for him.

JOHN E. GOULD, who was a pupil at the school from 1875 until 1881, died on January 11, at his home in Ayer, Mass., where he had resided since 1917. Funeral services were conducted at the Goudey Funeral Home in Everett, Mass. He is survived by his wife, Emily, and a twin sister, Mrs. Edward E. Davis, of Everett.

Mr. Gould was a building contractor, and carried on a substantial business in the Littleton and Ayer districts, where he was well known and highly respected. He belonged to the Loyal Nashoba Lodge, I. O. O. F. M. U., of Littleton.

WILLIAM D. BERNARD, '42, and his younger brother Eliot are on opposite sides of the Earth. Their mother writes to inform us that Eliot is at a Naval air station in French Morocco, while William is in a far Pacific submarine division.

Sgt. ARTHUR H. PICKARD, '34, is stationed in Hawaii and keeps in close touch with his many friends here. His letters are newsy, cheerful and always much appreciated.



THOMPSON'S ISLAND
BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 11 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. March 1945

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874



View towards the Wharf

A Trip to Cohasset

On March 8 our basketball squad went to Cohasset to play the high school first and second teams. We had looked forward to this trip for a long time, because we played the Cohasset football team last fall, and the basketball team earlier this winter, and found the Cohasset boys both good players and good sports.

We practiced hard for the game, because we expected to be given a hard fight on Cohasset's court, and we wanted to do our best. Our coach, Mr. Raymond Thomas, drilled us night after night and we went to Cohasset confident that we would make a good showing.

We left the Island right after supper, and rode to Cohasset in cars provided for

us by our instructors at the school. To them we are very grateful. We passed the big shipyards at Hingham and Fore River and were very much interested in the sights there.

Upon arrival at the Cohasset high school we were directed to a room where we at once changed into our basketball uniforms. Already there was a game in progress between two girls' teams. We watched this game and were much interested, because none of us had seen girls' basketball teams, and they play under different rules than we do.

Between the halves of the girls' game our second team played the Cohasset seconds. This was a very close game, and our boys led through most of the game. However, in the last quarter our opponents scored six points, while we could only score three and the final score was 16-12, the victory going to Cohasset.

The varsity game, which was the chief attraction of the night then got underway. We got a little lost on such a big floor, and our opponents went ahead in the first period, and we never caught up with them. It was a first rate game though, and we had the satisfaction of improving our play enough so that our opponents did not outscore us in the final period, although they did in each of the first three periods of the game. The final score was 51-31, and there was enough good basketball shown by both teams to keep the spectators very much interested throughout the game.

After the game we took showers and got ready for a trip back to the island. Then we were happily surprised by a fine lunch of tonic, sandwiches and cookies. While eating we had a great time talking with the Cohasset players, and other people who live in the town.

All of those who made this trip agree that it will long be remembered as a very happy occasion. We are all very appreciative of the courtesies shown us.

Frank N. Babick

Working in the Dining Room

I have worked in the dining room for the last two months, and have enjoyed every day of it. My job was to run the dishwashing machine. My instructors were very kind to me, especially when I didn't know how to do some of the work. I can do the dining room work well now.

George S. Keyes, Jr.

The Snow Battle

Annually, on Washington's birthday, the boys at F. T. S. celebrate Washington's birthday by a King Philip's War. We always hope that this can be a snow battle, and if there is no snow another type of sport is held. This year there was plenty of snow for a good old-fashioned battle.



Charging the fort

About a week before the battle captains for the two sides are chosen and they choose their armies. Louis Towne and Chester McLeod were the captains this year. The armies were called "Indians" and "Settlers".

As soon as the armies were chosen and organized we had a discussion about the snow forts. It was agreed to make them twelve feet square, eight feet high and with walls three feet thick. We found out that this kind of a fort was good protection, and not easy to get into or destroy.

On the day of the battle a light rain fell. This didn't dampen the spirit of the boys, however, although it was strange having a snow battle in the rain.

The purpose of the battle was to capture small sacks, which were given into the custody of one army, and then the other. The time limit for each of the five periods was fifteen minutes, the last period being a "free for all".

The Settlers had the sacks first and the battle began by the Indians charging the fort of the enemy, trying to get into the fort and capture the sacks. The Indians succeeded in getting into the fort and capturing forty points.

During the next attack the Settlers charged the fort of the Indians, but the fort of King Philip withstood repeated attacks, and the Settlers gained no points.

The real fighting took place in the final period, when the sacks were placed midway between the forts and both armies charged for them. During this "free for all" the Settlers outscored the Indians. After the points for the five periods were tallied, it was discovered that the Settlers won 161-160. This score showed how evenly matched the armies were.

In the snowball battle the rules are few. Anything permissible in football is allowed, such as blocking and tackling. If an opponent has a sack it is within the rules to hold, push or pull him in order to get the sack away.

After the battle both armies cheered their opponents and everyone went to get a shower and put on dry clothing.

Then the trophy of war was awarded the victors. This was cocoa, pop corn balls and doughnuts. It happened that there was plenty, so the victors invited first the officers of the losing army and then all of the opponents to share in the tasty lunch.

Everyone enjoyed the snow fight, and especially enjoyable was a gift sent by the Alumni Association to everyone here. This was a box of most excellent chocolates, which, as they were given out at a movie show in the evening, really made the 1945 observance of Washington's birthday one of our happiest days. For this gift we are deeply appreciative.

Bruce E. Haeger

Shop Work and Equipment

One of the most important practical training departments at F. T. S. is the woodworking shop. I have worked there for six months, and like it very much. There is always something which must be made, or something which needs to be repaired.

In the morning, at 7:30, the eighth grade has a sloyd period, and the shop boys help with the class. After the class has left comes the time when we clean the sloyd room thoroughly. Then we begin repairing broken articles or perhaps making something new. Maybe a settee needs some rungs glued, or perhaps the classrooms need a new bookcase. There is never a slack period in the shop work. In fact, we never get caught up with work which must be done.

The sloyd room is equipped with a great many tools, all of which the boys learn to use in the sloyd course. An interesting tool is the rabbit plane which is used in making picture frames. This plane is adjustable, and is set to plane to a certain depth and width and when the dimensions are reached it will plane no further. The

Please turn to Page 6

Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by
THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL
 Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF EXCELLENT
 CHARACTER SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.
 TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

FRANK N. BABICK - - - - - *Editor*
 BRUCE E. HAEGER - - - - - *Assoc. Editor*

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Because of our vital interest in and close touch with our lads in the armed services all over the world we feel the urge to use this column especially in response to the hundreds of letters from you men out there. Each one of you may be sure that we are thinking of you constantly and praying for your quick and safe return. We try to keep you informed of what's happening on the home front through these columns.

The other day over a thousand business and civic leaders assembled at a luncheon (\$2.50 per) at the Statler Hotel to inspire action on development of the Port of Boston. Pertinent speeches and an excellent Coast Guard band marked the occasion. The huge ballroom stage was filled with a beautiful, lighted display of Boston Harbor with a lighthouse at the outer approach sending its welcome beacon light to incoming mariners. Above the stage opening at the front was an attractive old colonial door and doorway with words across, the width of the stage, **FRONT DOOR OF NEW ENGLAND.**

Yes, beautiful Boston Harbor, with its jagged rock-bound coast and thirty-five bits of land dropped here and there at the entrance, is in fact the Front Door of New England. And our Island, one of the biggest and said by unbiased authority to be the most beautiful spot in the harbor, is just inside that Front Door, to the left as you enter.

In colonial days, and long after, every American home had a parlor just inside the front entrance and usually at the left. This was the most important room of the house. It was here that the girl entertained her boy friend on that all-important evening when the proposal of marriage was to be made. Hence it was really in the Parlor just inside the front door to the left that the young people formally

made their start on life's journey.

Isn't The Farm and Trades School, therefore, the Parlor at the Front Door of New England where so many young men make their start along life's highway?

Topics in Brief

February was a month of snow, and the boys were continually engaged in one sort of snow game or another. There was ample opportunity for any snow sport which would interest the boys. Our outdoor skating rink also provided a great deal of pleasure. Because of the heavy snowfall and the recreation provided, this winter will no doubt be remembered as a very happy one to our boys.

Basketball has naturally played an important part in the winter program of recreation, and every boy has had full opportunity to take part in this wholesome sport. The schedule of games, which extends for nearly three months, has been of unusual interest and, although the season is now drawing to a close, a leader in each league has yet to be determined. The boys are excited over the very close competition this year, and it is likely that a post-season schedule may be arranged.

Our band, under the leadership of Lieut. Frank L. Warren, is preparing for its annual concert at Faneuil Hall, and the program is already pretty well organized. We have no doubt that the boys will have an outstanding program of music prepared for this concert, as is annually the happy custom with our group. The Band numbers forty players this year.

An assembly of everyone at the School is held each Monday evening, at which time the classes take turns in presenting a program of education and

entertainment. The School band also plays a short concert and Mr. Meacham makes announcements for the coming week.

During this month we have had some interesting class programs at these assemblies. On February 5 the eighth grade gave a play dealing with important parts of the life of Abraham Lincoln. A week later the sixth graders observed the anniversary of the Boy Scouts with a fitting program. "The Lonesome Train", a narrative poem dealing with the funeral train of Abraham Lincoln, was staged by the Freshman a week later. The final program of the month was given by the seventh graders who offered instrumental and vocal music, with readings.

These weekly programs give the boys a fine opportunity to acquire training in appearing before a group.

A series of achievement tests has been given each of our students and the information thus obtained will be a valuable guide for each boy.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated by our annual snowball battle, and this year the fight was unusual in many ways. Because of ample snow the groups were able to construct snow forts that were able to withstand almost any attack. Each army made its plans. And in the main they followed them. The competition was for small sacks each worth a definite number of points, and the final score was 161-160.

A snow battle in the rain may sound unusual and it is, but this happened to be the case this year for a steady rain fell during the war. It failed, however, to dim the interest and enthusiasm.

Everyone at the School appreciates the kind gift of the Alumni Association of a box of fine chocolates on Washington's Birthday.

One of the highlights of our weekly activities is the regular Saturday night moving picture show. We have been fortunate in having a series of excellent pictures, and the boys look forward to the film program with keen anticipation. We have an RCA 16mm sound projector, and most of the better pictures are available for our use.

A break in the submarine cable, on the Squantum side, interfered with our electric current supply during the month. Fortunately, the time during which we were without complete electric facilities was very brief. The cable has been spliced, and permanent repairs made.

It was our privilege to entertain a group of students from Gordon College on March 1, when the Gordon team played our boys in basketball. The visitors enjoyed inspecting the barns and shops. Our minister, Mr. Donald Niles, was in charge of the group and took the opportunity to have our guests see the dormitories, kitchen and dining room facilities in Bowditch House. The School band entertained the group with a concert of diversified music.

The basketball game was a well-played hard-fought contest. Gordon got off to an early lead and our boys overcame this lead but as the game progressed it became evident that the Gordon team was superior. The final score was Gordon 33, F. T. S. 21.

On the evening of March 2 we enjoyed an informal party in honor of Mr. Meacham's birthday. A buffet supper was served in the gymnasium and following this was an amateur show, giving all of the boys a chance to entertain. There were comedy skits, songs, stories and jokes. We sometimes wonder who gets

the most fun out of this annual show; certainly the audience enjoys it tremendously and surely those who take part have a grand time too.

Continued from Page 3

jig saw is another machine constantly in use. Just now the making of bird pins and napkin rings is a popular hobby and the jig saw is needed for this work.

There are two other shops located on the floor beneath the sloyd room, and the shop boys use both of these shops. In the machine shop there are stones for grinding tools to a razor edge, a drill press which is in use a lot, and two steel lathes. In an adjoining shop is a large circular saw which will cut wood into any desired length, or width. The planer will put a smooth surface on a plank in a few minutes, and the band saw is used to cut strips of wood which needs to be finished with a curve.

The shop boys also learn to use all of these machines, and it is certainly a fine education. Anyone who has worked in the shop can use the training received throughout his life and it will always be a very valuable asset.

Three or four boys make up the regular shop crews and although they get the greatest chance to learn to use all this shop equipment, every boy in the school is likewise given instruction. The sloyd course is based upon the proper use of tools and equipment, and the eighth grade boys take this course as a regular daily subject. Those particularly interested may do advanced work for two additional years.

Wiley L. Bishop

Spring is on the way surely, for the marble rings are active again and practice for the tournaments is daily recreation for most of the boys.

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

We wish to thank our men in the service for the fine letters acknowledging receipt of the Christmas packages sent them. We are pleased, and very happy, that the packages were so greatly appreciated. It was a pleasure and joy to send this holiday remembrance. Our thoughts are always with our boys scattered over the world's battlefronts, and our continual prayer is that this terrible war may end soon, and that a great, victorious Christian peace will follow.

CPL. HOWARD M. COLPITTS, '39, U. S. M. C., has written an interesting note regarding the list of our service men in the Christmas package which we sent to our boys. On the day following the receipt of these packages in the far Pacific, Robert L. Pecce, '42, visited Colpitts. Neither had any idea that the other was in the vicinity until the packages were delivered.

WILLIAM W. FISH, '34, writes that he has advanced in rank to Boatswain's Mate, 2nd class. He had an unexpected and happy Christmas gift, that of a twenty day leave on the West Coast. His wife was with him on this leave. Now he is back on duty again in the war against the Japs.

WALTER G. FITZGERALD, '34, S. F. 2-c, we are glad to report has almost entirely recovered from an illness contracted while on duty overseas. He was for the past two months a patient at a Naval hospital in California.

SAMUEL O. HALL, '40, writes from "Somewhere in England", and describes

the country scenery as very pretty, when the fog and unpleasant weather occasionally clears. He closes his letter with the universal prayer of all of us; that this war will soon be over and we can all be together again.

LESLIE F. ULOTH, a former student, entered the Navy October 12, 1944 and is stationed at a Rhode Island base. On a recent Sunday he visited our boat landing at City Point and met many of the instructors and boys who were there.

EDWARD F. WEST, '34, U. S. N. is on duty at a Maryland air base, where he works in the airport control tower, directing planes during their take offs, flights and landings. During one month twelve thousand planes were handled at this base. Although he has been doing this work for some time, he writes that it has not lost any of its fascination, and new procedures are all the time being worked out to make the work more efficient.

WILLIAM F. ETHERIDGE, '42, has been honorably discharged from the air corps and afterwards from the Soldiers Home Hospital. Desiring to pursue a musical career he studied at a Boston conservatory and very recently left for New York City to act as Musical Instructor for the United Veterans of World War II. Besides this work, he is studying trumpet with one of the country's leading teachers and works at the Navy Yard.

Pfc ALAN H. MACLEAN, '41, writes from England where he is in the anti-aircraft defense, helping to eliminate the German air corps. His comments on the uninvited German planes coming within range of U. S. guns are interesting.

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

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77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
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Hyde Park, Mass.

LIEUT. FREDERICK E. MUNICH, '20, writes from India, where he has been stationed for some time. At every available opportunity he adds to his photograph collection by making pictures of colorful Indian costumes and traditional events. So far he has 800 pictures, 100 in color. He has sent us copies of some of his photos, for which we are appreciative.

LIEUT. THOMAS L. ABBOTT, our former herdsman, has been for twenty months stationed in China. At present he, with four other officers and fifteen enlisted men are living in what was formerly the home of a wealthy Chinese family. The group has it wired and a portable generator supplies electric power. A battery operated projector enables frequent showing of movies. He mentions the PX ration for the month which included: Pretzels, peanuts, beer, candy bars, gum, cigarettes, tomato juice, soap, razor blades and tooth powder.

ALBERT E. PETERSON, '21, F1c, has completed his second "Boot Training" in eighteen years, having been accepted for the Naval Reserve on December 7, 1944. During the training period he acted as company clerk, a job which he liked. He speaks of the vigorous swimming drills which the men undertook, and which he managed to pass. Never having been a good swimmer, he took just pride in this accomplishment.

PFC DAVID G. HAEGER, '42, is now at Norwich University, following a period of training at the University of New Hampshire. He was one of those 17-year old high school graduates chosen for highly specialized training by the armed forces.

CPL. EUGENE PROCTOR, '38, is at a South Dakota air base school studying radio and electrical fundamentals. Last June he was transferred from band duty to the military police, and on Nov. 20 he was again transferred to the work outlined above. According to present plans, upon completion of this course, he will take gunnery training, or be transferred to Air Transport Command or Troop Carrier Command.

SERGEANT ARTHUR H. PICKARD, '34, writes from the Hawaiian Islands, where he has been stationed for some time. His outfit is very busy, he says, as military affairs on that outpost are really tremendous. He has had opportunity to play on some beautiful golf courses, and has been on soft ball and volley ball teams as well as enjoying swimming at its best. His opinion of the always green lawns and trees is that "it gets rather dull, and I prefer New England weather."

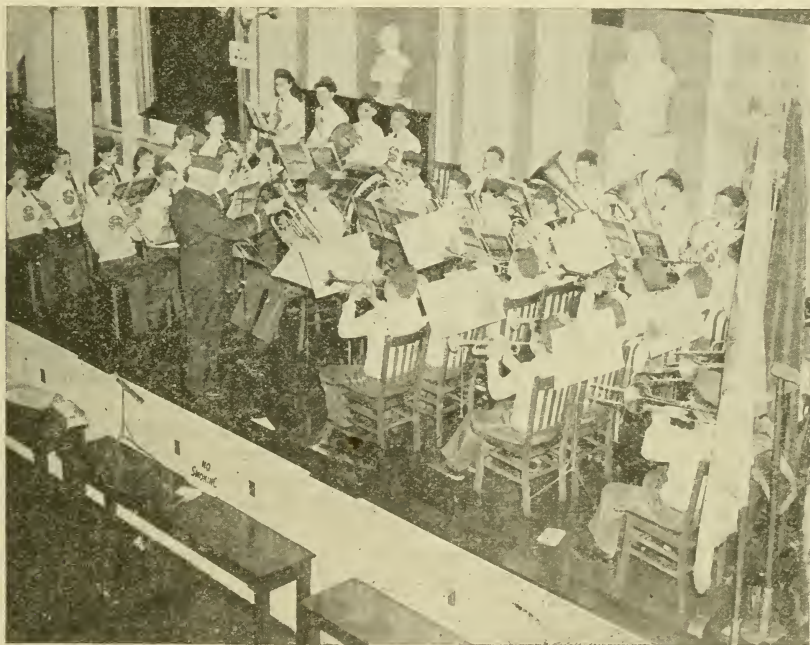
SGT. WILLIAM D. DELORIE, '37, who joined the air forces as a musician at the outbreak of hostilities and, up to the present time, was stationed at a South Carolina air base, has followed many other band men from musical duties into the infantry. He is now in training at a Louisiana camp. He was married at Christmas time.

ROLAND HALLBERG, S1c, '41, writes a jolly letter from the Pacific area, where, in spite of the grim business of war he is able to comment humorously on his old F. T. S. buddies. He expects to be given a 30-day leave "in the spring of 1946, O Happy Day".

THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 48 No. 12 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. April 1945

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874



Our Band on the Faneuil Hall Stage

Notice to Our Friends

For the ninth successive year our Band will present its annual spring concert in historic Faneuil Hall, in Boston,

on Sunday afternoon May 6, at 2:15 P. M. Nothing would please us more than to have all of our friends, who possibly can, attend this concert. Admittance to

the Hall is by admission card only, and we will be glad to send as many admission cards as can be used.

These concerts have been most successful year after year, and we feel confident that those who are interested in our school, and in school music, will enjoy this program of band music. A wide variety of compositions will be performed under the direction of our bandmaster, Lieut. Frank L. Warren.

Primarily we are interested in having a large audience. However, in financing the concert we will appreciate all fifty-cent donations sent to the school. No contributions will be accepted at Faneuil Hall.

We hope that you will write to us asking for admission cards. They will be forwarded promptly.

Softball

On last Tuesday evening all the boys met in the assembly hall to choose teams for softball competition. First we elected those whom we thought to be the best suited for captains, four in number. They were as follows: Chester McLeod, Gerard Harrington, Darwin Baird and Henry Porter. Then these boys chose the players they wanted on their teams. Each team is made up of twelve players who decided upon names for their clubs, and they chose nicknames of popular big league teams, the Red Sox, Giants, Cardinals and Yankees.

Of course the older and best players were chosen for these teams, and then the other boys, who were the younger and smaller ones, chose teams in the same manner. William Bunting and Thornton Lauriat are the captains of these teams, which are named Dodgers and Braves.

Each team will play two games each week until early in June. When this season is completed we will begin baseball schedules for the summer months,

Of course these scheduled games are by no means all that will be played. There will be choose-up and scrub games played every day, because nearly all of the boys like to play every chance that there is.

Bruce E. Haeger

Honor Roll—Winter Term

Sophomore Class

Frank N. Babick, 94
George H. Bruce, Jr., 89
William O. Robbins, Jr., 89

Freshman Class

Donald J. DeWolf, 86
Edward W. Finn, 85

Eighth Grade

Wiley L. Bishop, 91.8
Robert L. Burton, 88.8
Berton E. Cadorath, 88.8

Seventh Grade

Peter Finnegan, 86.5
Richard E. McPhee, 83.8

Sixth Grade

Malcolm C. Wiley, 92
Robert E. Lucien, 88.6

Twenty-five of the boys received a mark of 90 or over in classroom effort. They were:

Sophomore Class

Frank N. Babick Darwin C. Baird
George H. Bruce Chester C. McLeod
Henry J. Porter William O. Robbins
Louis A. Towne

Freshman Class

Donald J. DeWolf Richard G. Morrill

Eighth Grade

Wiley L. Bishop Robert L. Burton
Berton E. Cadorath Paul Calloe
Albert R. Erickson, Jr. Paul D. Keith
Thornton B. Lauriat

Seventh Grade

Peter Finnegan William H. Manson
Richard E. McPhee Burleigh M. Pratt
Robert D. Strachan

Sixth Grade

George E. Hotton George S. Keyes, Jr.
Robert E. Lucien Malcolm C. Wiley

The Easter Concert

Each year, at Easter, the academic department prepares a religious program which generally includes a play or pageant, and several musical selections. The concert takes about a month to prepare, and gives the boys excellent training in stage deportment.

This year the play selected was "Even Unto Death", by Majorie Gates Stephens. We used this play several years ago, and it is ideal for presentation in our Chapel. It concerns the enduring love of a little girl for the Saviour, and as the time of the play is the Crucifixion period, the girl is given little support by the multitude who cry for death on the Cross.

The boys in the cast, which numbered nine, did an excellent piece of work in giving the play. They were aided by colorful costumes, which helped much in setting the period of the play.

The musical portion of the concert was made up of selections by the Choir, and a special two part chorus was made up of sopranos and altos. The brass quartet played several of the familiar Easter hymns.

Those who had a part in the Easter Concert are to be congratulated for the splendid performance. Their work was very much appreciated.

The program and the names of those who took part, follows:

PROGRAM

HYMN

Congregation

INVOCATION

Mr. Niles

SELECTION Choir

MEDLEY of Easter Carols—Brass Quartet
Chester C. McLeod Henry J. Porter
Frank N. Babick Donald J. DeWolf

SONG Whispering Hope
Choir; Sopranos and Altos

BRASS QUARTET

HYMN Choir

PLAY Even Unto Death

HYMN

Congregation

BENEDICTION

Mr. Niles

Even Unto Death
Cast of Characters

TIMA, a little maid servant

George H. Bruce, Jr.

AKAN, her older brother, also a servant
Frank N. Babick

JUSTUS, a Roman soldier,
Darwin C. Baird

A PRIEST, Chester C. McLeod Jr

A SCRIBE, Edward W. Finn

PETER, William T. Warfield

ZIBEON, a lame beggar, George A. Robie

ANOTHER ROMAN SOLDIER,
Henry J. Porter, Jr

THE MINISTERING ANGEL,
Robert B. Morrill

THE CHOIR

Paul W. Horton Richard E. McPhee
Harold W. Kew Lawrence F. Finn
Paul D. Keith Leslie L. Goddard
William R. Bunting Frank A. Bagley
David P. Finnegan Richard G. Morrill
Robert I. Sleeper John E. Keller
Stephen J. Zevitas

We appreciate very much the kind and thoughtful Easter Greetings sent us during the Easter season.

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Gorham Brooks

N. Penrose Hallowell

Charles R. Mason

Philip S. Sears

James H. Lowell

Harold W. Edwards

Term Expires 1947

Leverett Saltonstall

John L. Batchelder

Moses Williams

William M. Meacham

George S. Mumford, Jr.

Frederic Winthrop

Frank L. Washburn

Term Expires 1948

George P. Denny, M. D.

Ralph B. Williams

Edwin H. Place, M. D.

Calvin Page Bartlett

Charles E. Mason, Jr.

Thomas Temple Pond

George G. Noren

In this "mixed-up" world of to-day it is difficult to know whether to talk about one of the many complexities or relate the facts of the home front. We are so overjoyed with the results reported from the many war areas that we are tempted to say much more than "well done" to you lads out there.

However, you lads out there probably want to know how things are on Thompson's Island. Well, as this copy goes to press. The Farm and Trades School Press, just before Easter Sunday, April first, we are enjoying the results of a very warm March.

The lawns, new athletic field, and other grass areas are green. The buds are out, big ones profusely on the Horse Chestnut trees and leaves on the Elms. The birds have returned to us. We have nearly two thousand baby clicks. A gentle breeze raises a little cloud of brown dust over the south-end knoll which already has a parting of oat seed. Two boys are sitting majestically atop a farm cart driving the bay span of horses up the farm house road. The east-side marsh is dry and resembles a cranberry bog with its system of drainage canals and brown-top turf.

These vivid signs of spring we do appreciate and enjoy but only half-hearted until every fox-hole is re-converted to its normal purpose and no longer a hasty habitat for one of our boys.

Topics in Brief

The annual Easter Concert was given on Easter Sunday evening, April 1, and was a presentation of the Bible play "Even Unto Death", by Majorie Gates Stephens

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 One Federal Street, Boston 6

This play gave the Easter message a far different interpretation than one is accustomed to expect. The cast was composed of nine of the boys, and all did a splendid piece of work. The play was in rehearsal for one month, and the excellent performance indicated an amount of hard, patient work by everyone connected with it.

Previous to the play there was special music provided by the Choir and brass quartet. Many of the familiar Easter carols and hymns were included.

Scarcely had the basketball season ended, which, incidentally, was the best in recent years, when the weather made it possible for softball to be played. As a result the month of March saw many games being played almost every day. By the time this issue reaches our readers our regular scheduled league games will be being played. Baseball will also be played by league competition, but the games do not start until early in May.

The winter term of school ended on March 30 and during the following week the boys enjoyed a vacation period. There was a variety of things to do, and many of the boys spent the time on hobby work of one kind or another. All of the boys were in town with their parents and friends for one day during the week, and a group, which had earned special merit for excellence in conduct and effort had a five day vacation period at home.

The marble season and the spring season go hand in hand, and the tournaments in this ancient game are underway. There is a tournament for both the younger, as well as the older boys. The interest of the game runs high, as it does year after year. The champions each year have their names inscribed on a perpetual silver cup.

Louis A. Towne, of the Class of 1945, left us on March 23. A few days previous to this date he had been sworn into the U. S. Navy. All of us at F. T. S. wish him "Godspeed and good luck."

It was our pleasure to have as a guest on April 3 Mr. Gordon P. Pyper, Director of Admissions of Mount Hermon School, Mount Hermon, Mass. Mr. Pyper was very much interested in the work being done on Thompson's Island, and visited many of the departments of the School.

A revival of the very ancient sport of archery is taking place here, and many of the boys are actively engaged in this hobby. Equipment ranges from some really fine sets, to bows and arrows made of most anything which is handy. We suspect that we shall have some really expert Robin Hoods after a summer of practice.

The extremely mild weather which prevailed during the month made it possible for us to get an early start on all our necessary outside spring work. The farm crews have been especially busy, and much has been accomplished.

The areas and grounds about the buildings have been given their share of attention this month. The boys' individual flower gardens have been assigned, and the boys, full of interest as usual, are hard at work on them. A big job has been done on the track around the new athletic field. Also, our spacious lawns have been fertilized and rolled, and some pruning of the shade trees has been done.

Our coal supply was replenished this month, when a lightering company delivered a supply to our wharf. The coal was then trucked to our power house and coal pile.

Calendar 90 Years Ago, March 1855

As kept by the Superintendent

2. Admitted John H. Burbank, James H. Partridge, and Joseph Partridge.

22. Received a visit from J. I. Bowditch, M. Grant, B. A. Gould, S. E. Brackett and S. G. DeBlois of the Board of Managers; also of Rev. Mr. Schwartz and Timothy Donovan, a former pupil of this School. Admitted James Hill, a colored boy.

Flower Gardens

Just a short time ago our supervisor asked how many boys would be interested in having an individual flower garden. Most of the boys wanted a garden of their own, so they met with the supervisor at the location of the flower beds. These plots for flowers are located on the other side of back road from the front lawn. They are arranged symmetrically, with a circular garden in the center. Each is bordered with small round rocks, which give each garden a neat appearance.

As there were some new boys present the supervisor explained that each boy could plant those flowers he wished, and that during the summer a record would be kept of the results obtained. Then, in the fall, prizes would be given to those having the best gardens.

It was not long before the boys were busy spading and getting their plots ready for planting. In the summer time these gardens will be one of the most beautiful parts of our island.

Wiley L. Bishop

Boat Work

I am one of the lucky ones who work on the Pilgrim III. The boat makes daily

trips to South Boston at 1:00 P. M., and at 5:00 P. M. It also makes other trips as are necessary.

By being a sailor on the Pilgrim III a boy learns the right names of the different parts of the boat. A lot of rope work is done, and much carpentry work. I have done much of this, and when I see large ships going in and out of the harbor I can imagine what the sailors are doing.

The most important part of a ship is the engine. We see great ocean-going ships towed by small tugboats. It seems impossible! Of course it is the powerful engines that do the work.

I have been here for five years, and it was not until I worked on the boat that I paid much attention to ships. Now that I understand and know more about boats I am much more interested.

Many boats anchor off our island, and sometimes, during severe storms, they break from their moorings. In this way the "Portsmouth" was driven onto our shore this past winter.

In a harbor such as this travelling around is very interesting. When we go to the upper harbor to get our gasoline tank filled we pass many big ships and see a great deal of the harbor.

I also find it interesting to talk to the men who work on the police boats and find out the duties they perform. A little boy tried to play pirate. He got into a current with his row boat and goes out in the harbor. That is a job for the Harbor Policemen. They watch sailboats to see that they don't tip over. They hunt for lost boats and do many interesting and often dangerous jobs.

I think that everyone will find as I did that boat work is interesting and I shall never forget my experience with boats and all the things I learned about them while I was at F. T. S.

Chester C. McLeod

News of the Service Men of The Farm and Trades School

We like to have you graduates in the armed forces consider the BEACON as a letter from home. We are glad to send it, for we know it is appreciated. This page is reserved especially for you. Please advise us of changes in rank, address, and news of yourselves.

LT. COL. FRANKLIN P. MILLER, '18, has written the following letter from Italy, which we know will be of interest to all of our readers.

"Dear Headmaster:

"Today, on Christmas, the package from the School was delivered to me. I want to thank you and the boys greatly for your remembrance. The package itself was grand, but better than that was the assurance that we are not forgotten by you people back home.

"I have been over 260 days in battle now, and a number of honors have been given me. The greatest of these, perhaps, is that I have been changed in mid-battle from an Artilleryman to an Infantryman. The Infantry, you know, are those men to whom 'the front' means a place where there is nothing in front of you but the enemy.

"But, what you must know is this,—a war is a terrible, hideous thing. We who are fighting it hate every moment of it,—and the men who forced it on us and the world.

"None the less, it must be fought and it must be won. We intend to do exactly that and, with God's help, to do our utmost to see that there shall never be another.

"I can't give you now the story of Christmas, with a peace over the lines, a tacit truce in which neither side fires. That was not true with us. The Germans continued their vicious battle, and we gave them back their shells with interest.

"It was, however, a white Christmas. Deep snow blanketed the terrible Italian

mountains. And our men, who are so savage in the attack, such terrible enemies that the Germans have called them in their radio programs 'The Blue Devils', these men held parties for the Italian children behind the lines, giving them food and 'caramelli' from their own packages from home.

"Incidentally, I went to the rear for a brief hour myself today, to be present at one of those parties, before going back to the lines where my Infantrymen are standing in their frozen foxholes, and I could think of nothing better than to give your many gifts to these poor ragged children, many of whom could not remember a time when their country had not been in a war.

"The one thing I did keep was the handkerchief,—that I needed myself. Before the ragged children had gone a soldier in a red Santa Claus costume gave them gifts from a bag that looked like a sandbag for entrenchments.

"Again I thank all of you. And I hope that this will be the last Christmas in a foxhole."

FRANKLIN P. MILLER

DONALD W. LOWERY, '41, H. A. 1-c, is now stationed at a Florida base, which he states is fifty miles from the nearest town of any size. He would prefer a larger base, near a center of activity, but as he says, war brings all things.

Pvt. WALTER J. ROSS, '44, is way down south in Georgia going through his basic training as an infantryman. Quite an interesting time he is having, he says, and says everything is going all right. He sends greetings to everyone.

The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, President
Hyde Park, Mass.

HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer
Arlington, Mass.

RAYMOND THOMAS, '26, Vice-President
Thompson's Island

MERTON P. ELLIS, '97, Secretary
77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian
Hyde Park, Mass.

HAROLD F. BENT, '35, after having graduated from F. T. S. attended and graduated from both Parsonsfield Seminary and Gorham Normal School, both in Maine. He taught for one year at Rumford High School. He then entered the employ of the New England Shipbuilding Corporation at South Portland, Maine, as a working specialist in the sheet metal department. Each job is different and presents new problems, all of which are extremely interesting to him. He was rejected for military service because of physical disabilities. He has a tract of land which he and his wife have purchased, and upon which he has erected a print shop and he runs a modest printing business. This venture will be an excellent "shock absorber" when the war is over. He is active in Masonic circles, having been a member for five years and is now Junior Warden.

Pfc EARL W. HOOPER, a former pupil, writes from the Phillipines, where no doubt he has been in the action of which we have been reading the past few months. He is a paratrooper. In his letter he recalls the happy days at F. T. S., and looks forward to the time when he may visit Thompson's Island again.

FRANK W. ELLIS, a former student, a Coast Guard recruit, writes from a training station in New York. Two things stand out in his letter; the fact that discipline is strict, and food is plentiful. He hopes to be able to arrange a visit to F. T. S. after his training period, which is now about completed.

SGT. WILLIAM E. NELSON, '31, who is with the 1st Foreign Transport Squadron, has written from a Miami air base. He has been in the service nearly three years now, and has been married since his induction. Like all of us, he looks forward to the day of victory and peace.

PFC RAYMOND L. BECK, '36, has written an interesting letter from an air force base in Arizona, a part of which follows:

"For my part, no school can compare with F. T. S. For it prepares a student for any kind of life, such as the Army, Navy and Marines. In any society the ability to get along with one's fellow men is important. I find my instruction at Thompson's Island has enabled me to do this with comparative ease."

ARTHUR B. STILPHEN, A-s, '43, is in the U. S. Navy and has trained for engineering duty. He writes that his training at F. T. S. has been of great value to him.

WARREN O. FILZ, '38, is a member of the Seabees and wrote from a California base, saying that he expected soon to leave the States. His work is mostly carpentry, and he also has charge of a small musical group.

Sgt. JOHN P. DAVIS, '36, is now at a relocation camp in the state of New York. He was among the early contingents of U. S. troops sent to the far Pacific. We look forward to a visit from him as time and circumstances permit.